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Prussian Staff & Specialist Troops 1791–1815

eter Hofschröer • Illustrated by Christa Hook

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3

THE PRUSSIAN GENERAL STAFF 5
- Origins and history
- the General Staff and War Ministry
- the 'new' General Staff
- uniforms

TACTICS: THE USE OF COMBINED ARMS 14

ARTILLERY & ENGINEERS 18
- Organisation and equipment
- artillery uniforms – 1792–1807, 1808–1815 – artisan – companies – ammunition columns
- uniforms of the engineer corps – pioneer battalions – pontoon trains – miners – train stretcher-bearer companies

ARTILLERY TACTICS 22
- Battery organisation
- the 1812 *Reglement*
- gun crew drills: 6-pdr field piece, 12-pdr, 7-pdr howitzer, 10-pdr howitzer
- movement
- signals

COLOURS & STANDARDS 27
- 1787–97
- 1797–1807
- 1808–15

THE PLATES 44

INDEX 48

Men-at-Arms · 381

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Series editor Martin Windrow

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Dedication

To my friend the late Colonel John Elting, who gave me so much of his time.

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Author's Note

Readers should note that this book is best read in conjunction with MAA 149, *Prussian Light Infantry 1792–1815*; MAA 152, *Prussian Line Infantry 1792–1815*; MAA 162, *Prussian Cavalry (1) 1792–1807*; MAA 172, *Prussian Cavalry (2) 1807–1815*; and MAA 192, *Prussian Reserve, Militia & Irregular Troops 1806–1815*.

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PRUSSIAN STAFF AND SPECIALIST TROOPS 1792–1815

THE FOUNDATION OF THE GENERAL STAFF SYSTEM

AMONG THE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars were the evolution of the division and the corps of all arms, together with the general staff as the 'brain' to guide them. Napoleon Bonaparte's Grande Armée is the most famed for its use of divisions and corps; but the armies he defeated with this system learned the lessons given, and adapted their military systems to incorporate these new tactical formations. The Prussian army, however, went further than merely learning what the master had taught: it analysed the secret of his success, and developed this system one stage further.

The man to whom this concept can be attributed was Gerhard von Scharnhorst (1755–1813), the son of a Hanoverian farmer who had joined the Prussian Army to further his military career – one of those so-called 'foreign mercenaries' that certain misinformed historians despise. The lesson that Scharnhorst learned was that it did not suffice to adopt the division and army corps of all arms in the absence of a leader with the talent of Bonaparte to command it. As such leaders were rare, to defeat that man and his system it was necessary to build a collective and systematic leadership trained along common guidelines. Scharnhorst founded the modern general staff, and laid down the principles of leadership in modern warfare which apply even today. As the Elder Moltke (1800–1891) put it in his *Lessons of War:*

'There are commanders who need no advisors, who can consider and decide for themselves; their retinue is there only to execute orders. However, these are stars of the first order, which appear once a century, if that. In most cases the commander of an army cannot do without advice. That may come from a council... whose training and experience makes it capable of giving the correct judgement.'

Gerhard Johann David von Scharnhorst (1755–1813) was one of Prussia's leading reformers of this period. A controversial figure in his time, he was regarded by some as a 'mad Jacobin' and a dangerous revolutionary, by others as a mere pen-pushing theoretician. Later interpretations of his achievements see him as a great patriot or even a proto-Marxist. All these views of Scharnhorst can be debated; what is certain is that he was an able soldier whose accomplishments influenced many of his contemporaries.

The system founded and shaped by Scharnhorst continued to be developed for 150 years. It was successful in the Wars of Liberation of 1813–1815, and has stood the test of time since. It was passed down through Scharnhorst's pupil Karl Philipp Gottfried von Clausewitz (1780–1831) to Moltke, and through him to the general staffs of the 20th century.

Even a 'star of the first order' like Bonaparte had his limitations. Granted, he needed no council of war to advise him in his early campaigns in Italy, which were conducted with relatively small forces; and he could control larger armies if their formations were concentrated within reach of his eye and hand, extended by intelligent reconnaissance

officers and messengers. However, his system of command tended to fall apart when control of part of his army was given to one of his subordinates. Lacking a general staff training and a common philosophy, even the most loyal of Napoleon's marshals had difficulty in conducting an independent command in the same theatre of war as the supreme commander. The failure of Marshal Michel Ney (1769–1815) to accomplish the desired flanking attack at Bautzen in May 1813 may be contrasted with, for instance, the successful flanking manoeuvre carried out by Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia under Moltke's guidance at the battle of Königgrätz (Sadowa) in 1866. The Napoleonic command system was too inflexible to learn the lessons that its own style of warfare had brought home. This was particularly apparent in the campaign of autumn 1813, when Napoleon's subordinate commanders floundered whenever the master did not guide their actions in person. This contrasts sharply with the performance of the Prussian staff system in the immediate aftermath of the battle of Ligny on 16 June 1815. With the commander of the army, Field Marshal Blücher, missing in action, the staff, under its chief Lieutenant- General von Gneisenau, proved quite capable of turning a confused retreat into an orderly withdrawal. This not only kept the army relatively intact, but also aided its recovery in time for another major battle two days later. What other army of the time was capable of such a performance, with troops of relatively low quality?

Gebhardt Leberecht Prince Blücher von Wahlstadt (1742–1819) – one of the more colourful figures of this period. The single-breasted Prussian blue undress coat shown here was introduced in 1814. The orders which he displays include the Pour le Mérite, the Grand Cross of the Iron Cross (with swords, an award unique to Blücher), and the Order of the Black Eagle.

Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were the founding fathers of the modern German general staff (for short biographies of these major figures, see Men-at-Arms 152 and 192). However, Eberhard Friedrich Fabian Freiherr von Massenbach (1753–1819) is credited with being the first to suggest that King Frederick's old Quartermaster General's Staff (QGS) should be modernised in accordance with current developments. The period between the accession of Frederick William III to the throne of Prussia in 1797 and the campaign of 1805 was one of free thinking, open debate and liberal reform in Germany in general and particularly in Brandenburg-Prussia. The great changes in warfare and society and their meaning for the future were discussed in a plethora of military journals published in Germany. Scharnhorst was the publisher of one such journal, and earned the respect of such diverse characters as Generals Blücher and Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm Philipp von Rüchel (1754–1823).

Scharnhorst's fame opened the door to his service in the Prussian Army, which he joined in 1801 (after a period in the artillery of the Electorate of Hanover). Promoted to full colonel and receiving a patent of nobility, this able officer was soon appointed to the QGS. He was given the task of instructing fellow officers, and founded a 'Military Society' in Berlin. This influenced the thinking of officers such as

Karl Wilhelm Georg von Grolman (1777–1843). Shown here in the undress uniform of a general, Grolman is wearing the silver epaulettes appropriate to that rank. He won his Pour le Mérite with oakleaves at Leipzig in 1813, and the Iron Cross 1st Class at Haynau in the same year. He was awarded the Order of the Red Eagle shortly after the Waterloo campaign.

Clausewitz, best known as a soldier-philosopher and author of the great military classic *On War*; Ludwig Leopold Gottlieb Hermann von Boyen (1771–1848), later the Prussian Minister of War, who introduced universal conscription; and Karl von Grolman, later one of Blücher's staff officers at Waterloo. Under Scharnhorst's expert guidance, the 'brain' of the Prussian Army was conceived and developed.

THE PRUSSIAN GENERAL STAFF

The Prussian general staff owed its origins to the staff system used by Frederick William of Brandenburg, the Great Elector, in the 17th century. This commander needed a certain number of officers, not attached to individual regiments, to carry out particular delegated functions such as supervising logistics, engineering, routes of march, encampments, and so on. Frederick William's army was 31,000 men strong.

Frederick William I, his grandson and father of Frederick the Great, commanded an army of 80,000 men with a similar system. Frederick himself was one of Moltke's 'stars of the first order'. He did not need a general staff, and his QGS had an administrative function only; it did not perform a military role in the sense of planning and leadership on campaign. When Frederick died, he left a kingdom much larger than that which he inherited from his father; he also left an army 200,000 strong. Frederick's successors were not 'stars of the first order'; indeed, his nephew and heir Frederick William II, who reigned 1786–97, shone fairly dimly. His son and successor, Frederick William III, at first lacked the confidence and authority to change much, even though the early part of his reign was characterised by open discussion and efforts to reform both the state and the army.

Evolution of the General Staff and War Ministry

Frederick the Great had established the principle that the King of Prussia would be supreme commander in both war and peace. Frederick William II maintained that principle; but one change he did make was to pass the administration of the army from his Cabinet to the Adjutant Generals' Office. This body was not a general staff in the modern sense; Scharnhorst had a low opinion of it, claiming that it had 'sunk to the level of an office of clerks', but like most reformers he exaggerated the faults. Actually, the Adjutant Generals' Office had not been designed to be anything else. If there was a defect in the senior command structure under Frederick William II, it was that he did not allow the Oberkriegskollegium, the supreme command of the army, to develop into a proper war ministry.

Under Frederick, the general staff was part of the Royal Suite under the King's Adjutant; the king gave the Quartermasters and Assistant Quartermasters their orders personally, and conducted their training. These terms were not ranks but appointments, normally held by field

OPPOSITE **August Wilhelm Anton, later Count Neidhardt von Gneisenau (1750–1831). Here, Prussia's other great reformer is shown in the uniform of a fusilier (light infantry) officer. Prussian fusiliers wore green tunics faced in the colours appropriate to their unit. Gneisenau entered service in the fusiliers in 1787, but participated in the Jena campaign as a staff officer.**

officers below the rank of general. On Frederick's death this staff consisted of four Quartermasters, seven Assistant Quartermasters and two Brigade Majors. The system had worked well with the relatively small armies commanded by Frederick; however, when his less gifted heir inherited greater territories and a larger army a more formalised structure was needed, and this was introduced in 1787, when the term General Staff was used for the first time. Colonel Theodor Philipp von Pfau was appointed Quartermaster General (chief-of-staff). Territorial expansion, particularly in Poland, and the growing tension in Europe caused by the wars of the French Revolution, saw the General Staff grow in size during Frederick William II's reign.

When the army was mobilised in 1790, two Assistant Quartermaster Generals were appointed – Lieutenant-Colonels von Grawert and von Knobloch. The former was placed in charge of the General Staff for the campaigns in the Rhineland. As well as the three senior officers named, there were four holding the post of Quartermaster and ten to 12 Assistant Quartermasters; the Brigade Majors were no longer considered part of the General Staff. In addition to these officers, 12 Engineer-Geographers (Ingenieur-Geographen) were appointed with responsibility for determining marching routes, campsites, etc., based on their knowledge of the terrain gained from reconnaissance during peacetime. In the task of leading the columns on these routes of march, selected members of the Feldjägerkorps – a corps of guides and messengers – assisted the staff officers. The staff were also responsible for gathering intelligence on the enemy's movements and dispositions, and for providing the commanding general with aides.

The administration of the army was the responsibility of the Oberkriegskollegium, which was founded in 1787. This was headed by a Presidium under Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, whose deputy was Infantry General Wichard von Möllendorff; it consisted of seven departments each led by a director and staffed by two officers. The 1st Department was responsible for the infantry, the 2nd for the cavalry, the 3rd for the artillery, the 4th for engineers and fortresses, the 5th for supplies, the 6th for uniforms and equipment, and the 7th for military invalids. The object in founding this council had been to allow it to develop into a ministry of war, but this aim was not helped by the foundation in 1795 of the Immediat-Militär-Organisations-kommission (Military Organisation Commission). Placed under Möllendorf, this commission was empowered with reorganising the army, and as such it effectively became its governing body from 1795 until 1805, with the Supreme Council merely carrying out the instructions that the Commission passed down. In consequence, by 1796 the Oberkriegskollegium had made little progress towards becoming a war ministry; it had become increasingly bureaucratic, and its directors ever more out of touch.

Prussia agreed to cease hostilities with France by the Peace of Basle of 1796. The QGS was reduced to three Assistant Quartermaster Generals, six Quartermasters, six Assistant Quartermasters and 18 Assistants (Adjoints), as well as a planning chamber staffed with civilian officials. The General Staff was divided into three territorial Brigades, each under an Assistant Quartermaster General. The 1st Brigade, under Major Karl von Pfuhl, covered the eastern part of the kingdom from the right bank

King Frederick William II of Prussia, in a contemporary watercolour dating from 1789. The king is shown wearing a Prussian blue frock coat with poppy-red facings embroidered with silver lace; the sash worn over the left shoulder is orange, and the usual mixed silver and black officers' waist sash is worn. The waistcoat and breeches are white.

of the Vistula to the Baltic Sea. The 2nd, under Massenbach, covered southern Prussia, Silesia, Saxony, Franconia and Bavaria as well as western Prussia left of the Vistula, Pomerania and Mecklenburg. The 3rd, under Lieutenant-Colonel von Francken – soon to be replaced with Lieutenant-Colonel von Scharnhorst of the Artillery Corps – covered western Germany from the Elbe to the North Sea, the Rhine and the Main. The Adjoints were regarded as young officers of potential, to be groomed for later promotion to more senior positions in the General Staff. Those appointed to that post included Müffling of Waterloo fame; Georg Wilhelm von Valentini (1775–1834), whose texts were later used to train army officers; and Boyen.

The head of the QGS from 1796 was one Levin von Geusau, the son of a Baden nobleman and another of the 'foreign mercenaries'. It was during his period of office that the QGS started to undergo the changes that took it from being the administrator of the army to its planning and leadership body, a transformation initiated by Massenbach, a Swabian nobleman and as such another non-Prussian. The Staff Officer of the QGS, Le Coq, formulated an instruction for his officers which implemented the first necessary reforms; in 1802, Massenbach took these further and wrote two memoranda outlining the reorganisation he envisaged, which were approved by Frederick William III the following year. Some historians in the English-speaking world have repeated certain myths about the Prussian Army of this period; and one of them is that it was the events of 1806 which forced a reluctant Prussia to implement the necessary reforms. In support of this theory it has been claimed that until the double catastrophe of Jena and Auerstedt the military was regarded as a holy institution created by the revered Frederick the Great, and that any suggestion of change was regarded as heresy. The facts outlined above clearly indicate that the so-called 'army of Frederick the Great' was already modernising several years before it ever came into contact with Napoleon's Grande Armée, albeit with inadequate resources.

The new General Staff was given the responsibility of making the necessary plans to be implemented in case of war. Its sphere of responsibility was divided into three theatres of war – with Austria, with Russia and with France – and the officers of the appropriate sections or 'brigades' were to engage in terrain studies and to gather intelligence on their potential enemies. The new staff consisted of 21 officers, including Scharnhorst. Major-General Karl Ludwig August Friedrich von Phull (also spelt Pfuel, 1757–1826), a Württemberger by birth, led the 1st (Austrian) Brigade; Massenbach led the 2nd (Southern) Brigade, which covered central and southern Germany, while Scharnhorst led the 3rd (Western) Brigade, responsible for western Germany.

Frederick William III, who ascended the throne of Prussia in 1797, recognised the need to modernise the army, but lacked both the determination to impose his will and the financial means to carry through all the necessary steps; consequently the earlier part of his reign was characterised by a series of half-hearted, poorly implemented reforms.

Regarded as an open-minded man of great intellect, the Duke of Brunswick remained at the head of the army; Möllendorff continued to wield great influence; and Frederick William also had a high opinion of Rüchel, a mere 43 years old in 1797, and entrusted him with conducting a number of reforms. Clausewitz described Rüchel as 'concentrated

Prussic acid' – but Prussic acid is ideal for removing rust, and that is precisely what Rüchel did. Scharnhorst had a good relationship with him, and Rüchel had a high regard for Gneisenau. Brunswick, Möllendorff and Rüchel were the greatest influences on Frederick William during his early reign.

The QGS suffered further cuts in manpower. From 1798 it consisted of one Quartermaster General, two Quartermaster Lieutenant-Generals, three Quartermasters and four Quartermaster-Lieutenants, together with 14 Engineer-Geographers (the latter not trained military men but civilians, mainly from the building industry): a mere ten general staff officers for an army of 230,000 men. The inadequacy of this arrangement was recognised, and in 1798, 20 members of the Feldjäger were attached to the General Staff to carry out staff functions.

ABOVE LEFT **King Frederick William III of Prussia, in a portrait dating from the latter part of this period. The blue double-breasted coat introduced from 1808 has red facings with gold embroidery. The Order of the Black Eagle is clearly visible on the left breast; the Iron Cross 2nd Class won at Paris in 1814 is partially covering the cross of the Order of the Red Eagle and the Russian Cross of St George.**

ABOVE RIGHT **Wichard Joachim Heinrich von Möllendorff (1724–1816). The uniform worn here is that of an officer of the Prussian Foot Guards in the days of Frederick the Great, when Möllendorf entered the army. The coat is Prussian blue with poppy-red facings and silver embroidery.**

One of Massenbach's memoranda of 1802 precipitated a reorganisation and expansion of the General Staff in 1804. Headed by a Quartermaster General, it now consisted of three departments. The 1st Department became responsible for the military formations (formerly Departments 1–3) and their supply (formerly Department 5). The 2nd Department took over the function of the former 6th, namely clothing and equipment; while the new 3rd Department fulfilled the role of the former 7th. This reorganisation was a typical cost-cutting exercise,as Prussia was endeavouring to maintain an army with inadequate resources.

In 1805, Austria, Russia and Britain formed the Third Coalition and war with France broke out. Scharnhorst, holding responsibility for the theatre closest to France, took an active interest in this conflict. He recommended that Brandenburg-Prussia should join in this war on the side of the Allies; but Frederick William vacillated, hoping to gain as much by armed neutrality as by fighting. His attempts at mediation were to no avail, and Napoleon's decisive victory at Austerlitz in December 1805 made the emperor master of central Europe.

The divisional organisation of 1806

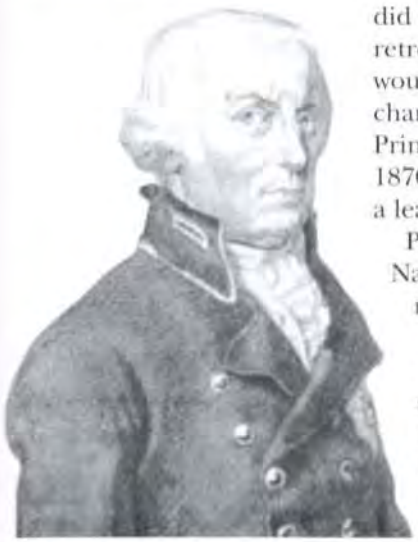
In April 1806, Scharnhorst summed up the essential dilemma which has always faced the German General Staff: 'Prussia should never conduct a defensive war, her geographical position and lack of natural and artificial means of defence do not allow that option.' War with France was no longer avoidable, so the Prussian Army was mobilised in August of that year. At Scharnhorst's behest it was organised into 14 divisions of all arms in September 1806. This ill-considered aping of the French,

conducted at the last minute, did not take into account the lack of trained divisional staffs available to command these formations.

Many of the problems in the handling of these grand tactical formations in the forthcoming campaign can be traced to this decision. The few officers of the QGS were not able to fulfil such a function, and none of the senior commanders had any experience in the tactical use of the divisional formation. As Massenbach pointed out in his essay on the training of generals written for Duke Charles August of Saxe-Weimar in 1802: 'The schooling of subaltern officers, of captains and battalion commanders is exemplary and still an object of envy and imitation by our neighbours, but what about the schooling of generals? Where is the opportunity to be trained as a general, i.e. as an independent commander of all arms?' That this contributed significantly to the Prussian defeat was recognised by Gneisenau, who wrote in his memorandum on the campaign of 1806: 'Moreover, we imitated those parts of the French system that we should have avoided, namely organising the army into divisions without considering that we did not have sufficient generals capable of commanding these formations…'

There are two points to be made here. Firstly, Gneisenau's comment confirms that reforms had been carried out in the command structure of the Prussian Army, contrary to the myths about the 'sanctity of the inheritance of Frederick the Great'. Moreover, Gneisenau indicates that merely copying the French rather than developing the Prussian system was an error. Secondly, Scharnhorst, for all his efforts to reform the Prussian Army, made mistakes. One of the major lessons of the 1806 campaign was the need for the centralised training of senior officers in the command and control of formations of all arms. The division was to become the standard grand tactical formation in the post-Jena Prussian Army, and the General Staff were to become the body that would control and command these formations.

Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick (1735–1806), who presided over several important reforms in the Prussian Army. He fought at Valmy in 1792, but was mortally wounded during the 1806 campaign.



It was on the retreat from the field of Auerstedt that fate decided the form that the future German General Staff would take. Scharnhorst, separated from the Royal Headquarters during the confusion of the retreat, bumped into Blücher, who was trying to cover the withdrawal of the heavy artillery. The two already knew one another and Blücher did not hesitate to appoint Scharnhorst his advisor for his fighting retreat to Lübeck on the Baltic coast. In the summer of 1813, Gneisenau would replace the mortally wounded Scharnhorst. This type of team characterised future Prussian and German general staffs – the Crown Prince of Prussia and Count Blumenthal in the campaigns of 1866 and 1870; Hindenburg and Ludendorff in World War I – a team consisting a leader to inspire his men and a brain to organise his forces.

Peace followed in summer 1807. Prostrate before a victorious Napoleon, Prussia was dismembered and plundered. One positive result of this defeat was that reformers gained the upper hand in both the state and the army. Stein, the leading reformer and German patriot, was put in charge of the Ministry of State; and he saw to it that Scharnhorst was named to lead the recently founded Military Reorganisation Commission empowered with reforming the army and its institutions, to which fellow reformers like Gneisenau, Boyen and Grolman were also appointed. As leader of this commission, Scharnhorst became in effect the unofficial

minister of war and chief of the general staff, particularly as the formal post of chief of the QGS was never filled after October 1806.

Scharnhorst's programme was clear: the introduction of universal military service (not fully achieved until 1814); the permanent reorganisation of the army into divisions of all arms; the creation of a formal General Staff and a Ministry of War to which it would be subordinated; the opening of the officer corps to men of sufficient education regardless of social background; and the ending of corporal punishment.

The 'New' General Staff

Following the double catastrophe of Jena and Auerstedt, a Military Reorganisation Commission (Militär-Reorganisations-Commission) was appointed in 1807. One of its intentions was to reorganise the army into permanent divisions of all arms, even in peacetime, so as to allow these formations to be properly trained. However, the Convention of Paris of 8 September 1808 restricted the army to 42,000 men: instead of six divisions the Prussians could now raise only six brigades. As we shall see, on mobilisation in 1813 the brigades were augmented with a number of newly raised formations and although still designated 'brigades', they were for all intents and purposes divisions.

On 1 March 1809 the entire army was placed under the control of the War Department (Kriegs-Departement) or Ministry of War. This body replaced the Oberkriegskollegium, the General Adjutants' Office and the General Inspectorate of the Army, as well as the governors of the larger fortresses, thus greatly simplifying army administration. The ministry was divided into two departments. The first or General War Department (Allgemeines Kriegs-Departement) was responsible for the command and mobilisation of the army. The head of the department, the so-called First Officer of the General Staff, was in effect the war minister and had direct access to the king; Scharnhorst held this post until the summer of 1810. The same access was enjoyed by an officer experienced in administration who headed the second or Military Economy Department (Militär-Ökonomie-Departement). Each of these two Departments consisted of a number of Divisions, each headed by a Director. The 1st Division of the General War Department handled personnel matters, the 2nd covered the training and use of troops, and the 3rd dealt with armaments. The 1st Division of the Military Economy Department administered the accounting, the 2nd supplies, the 3rd clothing and the 4th the invalids.

The new General Staff was not yet an independent organ of command as it later became. It consisted of a group of officers still performing different tasks in the army, either in the War Departments, in government or in the brigades. Scharnhorst held the post of head of the General Staff between June 1810 and February 1812, when Prussia allied herself with France for the forthcoming campaign in Russia. At the same time, he held his posts of Chief of the Engineer Corps and Curator of Military Schools.

In the event of war, it was planned to form the six brigades into three army corps. The General Staff would have to supply sufficient staff officers for this purpose. The Chief of the General Staff would in such an event take the post of Quartermaster General in the army headquarters, with an Assistant Quartermaster General at his side. Each corps would

Cavalry *Flügel-Adjutant* (royal aide-de-camp), 1789. This contemporary watercolour published by Horvath shows full dress. His white coat has black facings with silver embroidery, worn with a buff or straw-yellow waistcoat and white breeches.

have a Quartermaster and senior staff officers, each brigade an Assistant Quartermaster and majors or captains to perform staff functions, most with various aides. The Army List of September 1808 contains 19 General Staff officers and a further 15 attached to the General Staff, a total of 34 officers. In 1812 this number was reduced to 21. The training of General Staff officers was laid down in an Order-in-Cabinet of 29 January 1810. Each officer was to spend time with all the arms – infantry, cavalry and artillery – to become familiar with them. He was also to conduct reconnaissance exercises, learn to make topographical sketches and conduct special missions. The mistakes of 1806 were taken to heart and the basis laid for establishing a uniformly trained pool of staff officers. Once at war, the basic role of the General Staff in the field was to receive and implement orders (orders of the day, army, corps and brigade general orders), dispositions, and operational orders. It also wrote the daily reports and maintained the unit war diaries. It was organised and worked as follows:

(1) The Army Headquarters

The Chief of the General Staff was posted here, and was responsible for the operations and administration of the army. The supreme command was naturally the responsibility of the army's commanding general, with the role of his chief-of-staff being to turn the commanding general's intentions into practical plans. The headquarters had to organise the assembly of the army; its operations, i.e. its movements and positions; and its supply, i.e. its clothing, food, ammunition and accommodation. The chief-of-staff organised the officers available to him according to those needs. He was himself personally responsible for drafting dispositions and issuing instructions.

(2) The Corps Headquarters

The chief-of-staff of an army corps was responsible for its organisation and leadership, acting as an advisor to the corps commander. Any instructions issued by the chief-of-staff were only on behalf of and with the consent of the commander.

(3) The Staff Officer of the General Staff

This officer was the representative and assistant of the chief-of-staff. He was required to lead larger formations into combat, riding at their head; to choose the sites for camps and bivouacs; to plan reconnaissances, specifying in detail what was required of the junior officers involved; to work out the details of dispositions, and keep the war diary. In short, he was the chief-of-staff's executive officer.

(4) The Third General Staff Officer

This officer was responsible for dealing with all pressing matters in detail, on instructions from and in support of the commanding general and his chief-of-staff.

(5) Brigade General Staff Officers

These officers dealt with matters such as the reconnaissance of terrain and any resulting changes in the direction of the marching columns, particularly when they rode at the head of the columns; with reconnoitring the enemy and the countryside, particularly with regard to the supply and quartering of the troops; with the receipt and implementation of orders regarding combat, deployment and marching. Finally, the brigade staff officer was required to deal with every matter drawn to his attention by the brigade commander.

Infantry *Flügel-Adjutant*, 1789, from the same collection. This ADC is wearing a mid-blue coat with black facings and silver embroidery; both waistcoat and breeches are straw-yellow.

ABOVE LEFT **Quartermaster Generals, 1800. The figure on the left is wearing the sombre service uniform consisting of a Prussian blue frock coat with poppy-red facings and gold lace, buff/yellow waistcoat and white breeches. The gala uniform on the right has the more lavish gold lace embroidery with tasselled loops, and a laced hat. (Ramm)**

ABOVE RIGHT **General Staff officers, 1800. The cavalry officer on the left has a white frock coat with poppy-red facings and silver lace; the infantry officer, right, wears Prussian blue faced with red and laced silver; both wear buff or straw-yellow waistcoats and white breeches. (Ramm)**

Uniforms:
Until 1809 the General Staff tended to be organised on an informal basis, with selected officers being attached to headquarters according to need. While this practice continued to some extent, after the founding of the War Ministry in 1809 a more formal procedure was adopted and a corps of permanent staff officers was established. Until then the attached officers continued to wear their regimental uniforms, but thereafter specific staff uniforms were more common. (The regimental uniforms are covered in Men-at-Arms 149, 152, 162 and 172.)

Generals

Prior to 1808 the only officer rank to have any uniform distinctions was general; each grade of general had its own distinctions, except generals of cavalry before 1798. Under Frederick the Great, generals had not had a separate uniform, simply wearing that of the regiment of which they were colonel-in-chief along with a feather plume on their hats. In 1790 Frederick William II introduced campaign dress for cavalry generals, consisting of a Prussian blue frock coat with red facings and gold embroidery. Infantry generals' uniforms remained unchanged, and cavalry generals were still allowed to wear their regimentals.

On 26 February 1803, Frederick William III introduced a common uniform for all generals, but did not forbid the use of regimentals. This consisted of a blue frock coat with two rows of eight gilt buttons; the collar and cuffs were faced with poppy-red and embroidered with gold oakleaves, the embroidery running along the lower edge of the collar. The coat was lined with poppy-red cloth; the epaulettes were gold, the waistcoat pale straw-yellow, and the stock black. The undress hat had a star-shaped clasp with a white-over-black ostrich feather plume; its cords were black and silver. The choice between the new uniform and regimentals was left to the generals, except when on parade, when the regimental uniform had to be worn. Only their swords and boots distinguished infantry from cavalry generals – the normal infantry épée for the infantry, the short cavalry épée for the cavalry, marching boots for the infantry, riding boots for the cavalry.

The generals' uniform remained largely unchanged thereafter. From 1809, the black cockade on their headwear was edged in white. For undress a blue peaked cap with a poppy-red band was introduced, and in the field grey riding overalls were worn, with a red stripe and yellow metal buttons along the outside seams. In 1814, plain, tight white (and

for a time, black) trousers worn with high boots were introduced as parade wear. In 1815, grey trousers with two poppy-red stripes and red seam piping replaced the tight trousers and high boots. The remainder of the uniform was as that worn by all other officers (see Men-at-Arms 149, 152, 162, and 172).

The King's General Adjutants & Adjutants

The King's General Adjutants' uniform depended upon the wearer's infantry or cavalry origin. Those from the infantry wore the uniform of the Guard Infantry with minor differences in the gold embroidery. Their shakos bore a black and white cockade instead of the Guard Star. Those from the cavalry wore the uniform of the Garde du Corps with a plumed cocked hat instead of the helmet, and a white frock coat with poppy-red collar, cuffs, shoulder straps and piping.

The King's Adjutants (Flügel-Adjutanten) wore a uniform similar to that of the General Adjutants, either infantry or cavalry, but had silver instead of gold embroidery.

Officers of the War Ministry

Those officers attached to the Allgemeine Kriegs- und Militär-Ökonomie-Departement wore the uniforms of their parent regiments. From 1810, with the exception of artillery and engineer officers, who continued to wear their old uniforms, they wore that of the General Staff (see below), but with gold embroidery. Cavalry officers wore white coats with carmine collars and cuffs, embroidered in gold.

General Staff Officers

The first formal uniform was introduced in 1787: a light blue coat (white for the cavalry) with red facings and silver lace. From 1809, officers wore the same uniforms as the Flügel-Adjutanten, including the silver embroidery, but with carmine facings instead of poppy-red.

Aides-de-camp (Adjutantur)

Until 1810, ADCs wore their regimentals but with a plumed cocked hat in place of their usual headwear. In 1810 a specific uniform was introduced. It consisted of a blue frock coat with two rows of eight yellow buttons, dark green velvet collars and cuffs piped in red; on parade a gold aiguillette and a cocked hat with a white plume were worn. Cavalry ADCs wore white coats with dark green velvet collars and cuffs, but without piping; they also had green edging to their coat tail turn-backs.

Officers attached to Army Headquarters

From 1809 such officers were required to wear the following uniforms:

Cavalry ADCs in the much plainer single-breasted campaign uniform, 1800. The uniforms of the General-Adjutant, left, and Flügel-Adjutant, right, are almost identical apart from the former's gold lace and buttons and the latter's silver. Prussian blue coats faced with poppy-red, buff/yellow waistcoats and white breeches are common to both. (Ramm)

'Corps of Mounted Guides', 1800 – officer (left), guide (right). Having been raised from game-keepers and foresters in 1740 by Frederick the Great to serve as guides and couriers for the staff, this *Feldjäger Corps zu Pferde* wore the traditional huntsman's green coats and waistcoats, with poppy-red facings. The officer's coat has gold lace embroidery, the guide's brass buttons – but note that he too wears an aiguillette. (Ramm)

Infantry Blue frock coat with two rows of eight yellow buttons; poppy-red collars, Swedish cuffs with two buttons, and turn-backs; blue shoulder straps; infantry shako with a black and white cockade and gilded clasp. All other items were as for infantry regimental officers.
Cavalry White frock coat with single row of eight yellow buttons; poppy-red piping down the front and along the edges and pockets, poppy-red collar and Swedish cuffs, the cuffs with two yellow buttons; a white shoulder strap on the left shoulder, a gold aiguillette on the right; cocked hat with a white plume, and the cavalry sabre.

Corps of Guides (Feldjägerkorps zu Pferde)

This Corps was clothed in the traditional huntsman's green uniform that riflemen favoured; facings were poppy-red and buttons yellow. The frock coat introduced in 1808 had two rows of eight buttons, the Swedish cuffs two buttons. The shoulder straps and later the epaulettes were green, the later with gilded crescents. White breeches were worn at first, but from 1808 grey overalls with red seam piping and a row of 18 buttons, replaced in 1815 by grey trousers with two red stripes and no buttons.

Headquarters Guards (Stabswachten)

At this time headquarters guards were assembled on an *ad hoc* basis from men detached from various units, wearing the uniforms of their parent regiments.

TACTICS: THE USE OF COMBINED ARMS

The General Staff was instructed in the use of a new set of drill regulations, the *Exerzir-Reglement für die Artillerie der Königlich Preussischen Armee* of 1812. One unique feature of this document was the section on the use of the combined arms. As the lack of co-ordination of the arms in combat was one of the major causes of defeat in 1806, this Instruction can be regarded as the most significant of the reforms achieved. The origin of this part of the Reglement goes back to an Instruction on the use of the brigade in combat written by Frederick William III in 1809.

The Reglement specified brigade formations for normal use, for the advance to contact, for the bayonet charge and for defence against cavalry. Normally, the brigade's infantry would be drawn up in three lines. The front line would consist of its two fusilier battalions, which would be used to form the skirmish line. Three musketeer battalions stood 150 paces behind them, ready to attack or defend. The final line consisted of the grenadier battalion formed from the grenadier companies of the four musketeer battalions, and the brigade's senior musketeer battalion, the first of the first regiment. The foot battery would be drawn up to the rear of the infantry, the three cavalry regiments and horse artillery to their rear. If necessary, a light cavalry regiment could support the fusiliers. The foot artillery was generally deployed with a half-battery on each flank.

Depending on the terrain and circumstances, either the fusiliers or the cavalry would start the attack. Certainly, one cavalry regiment was designated to cover each flank of the brigade. They would form up in columns by troops (Züge). The fusiliers would form a skirmish

line to commence the attack. If no fusiliers were available, then the third rank of the musketeer battalions would perform this service. If the skirmish line ran low on ammunition, it would be replaced by fresh troops. Next, the three musketeer battalions in the first line would advance while the fusiliers fell back, forming a column on each flank of the second line. The brigade general would then decide if he would use the fusiliers at the same time as the reserve or if he would pull them back to use as a new reserve. He also decided whether to form columns or lines. The column was always used when withdrawing, to facilitate the speedy formation of closed squares should enemy cavalry attack. If the fusiliers were not able to force the enemy to withdraw, the first line would prepare for the bayonet attack. Its third rank would deploy as skirmishers, while the fusiliers fell back to the second line, forming columns. The artillery would be used as needed.

For defence against cavalry, the battalions would form closed squares from column in a chequer-board formation, at 100-pace intervals, to deliver mutual covering fire. The cavalry would move around the infantry to engage the enemy cavalry. They would do this only after the enemy cavalry had engaged the squares and had their formation disrupted. The cavalry attacked by squadron. Again, the artillery was used when and where it could be of greatest effect.

The new brigades were heavily involved in the fighting of spring 1813 (see Osprey Campaign series 87, *Lützen & Bautzen*). Some errors were made, and in his Instruction of 10 August 1813 Frederick William pointed out the lessons to be learned. He complained about the failure to co-ordinate the three arms properly, particularly that the cavalry tended to be used to open the fight, when that was the role of the infantry. The French, he noted, made better use of their infantry, deploying it well in broken terrain. He also complained that the artillery was being used too early, so

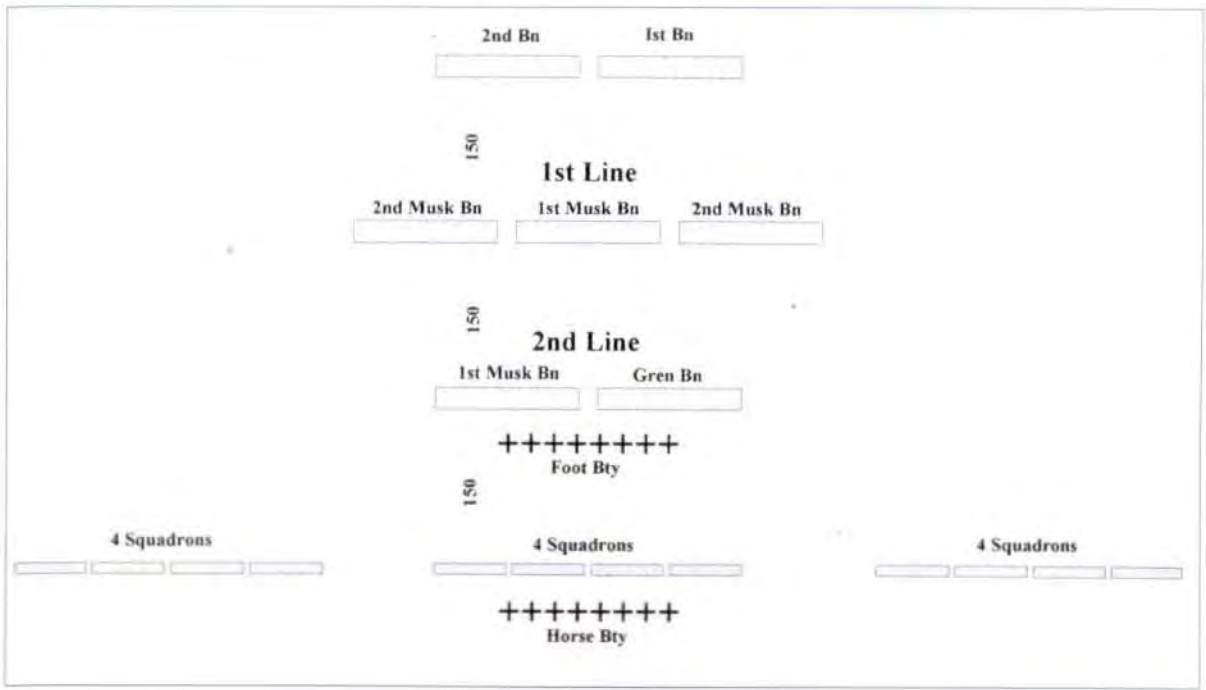


Fig.1: Dispositions of a deployed brigade of all arms under the 1812 *Reglement*; the marked distances are in paces. The chequerboard formation of the infantry battalions is evident. The fusilier light infantry form the front line, while the reserve consists of the combined grenadier battalion and the senior musketeer battalion of the senior infantry regiment. The artillery and cavalry are deployed to the rear, in support. (Drawing by John Cook)

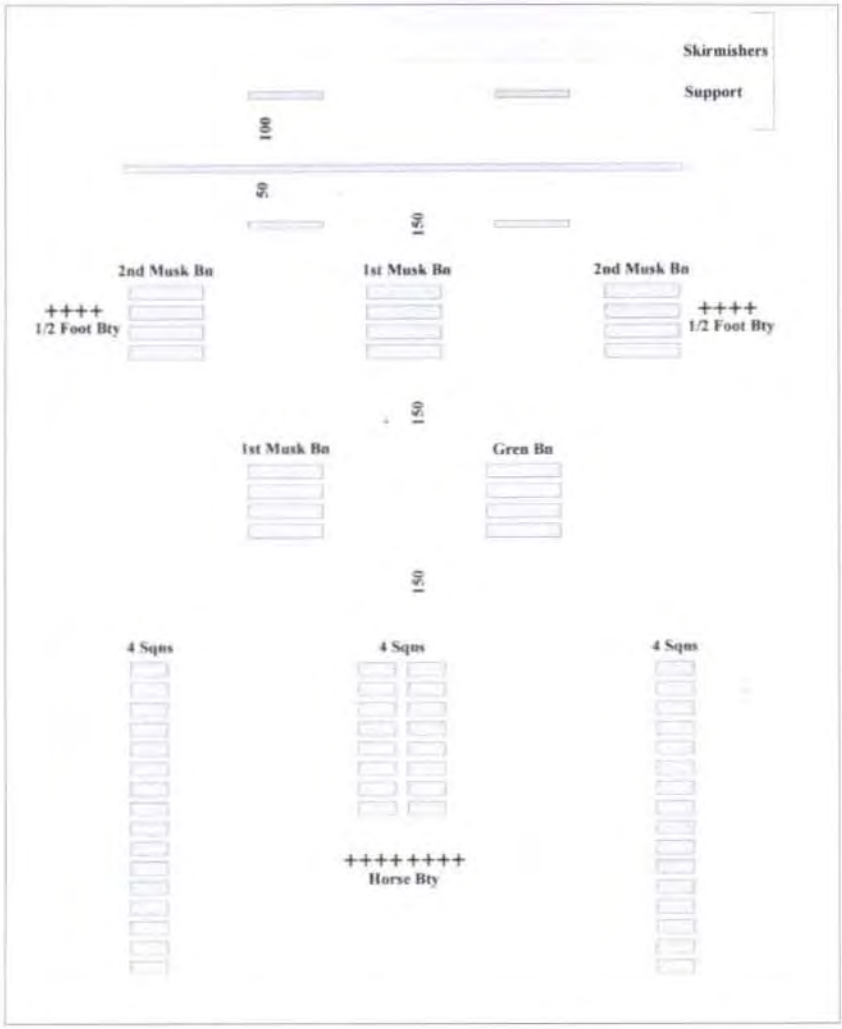
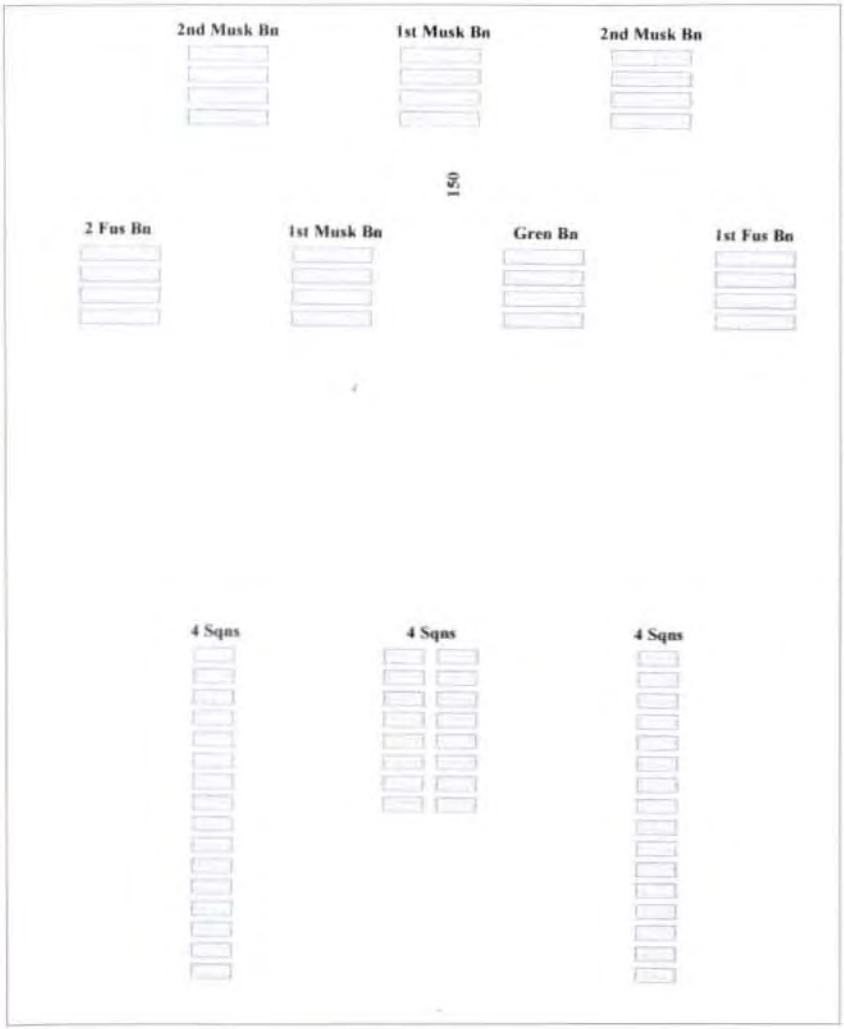


Fig.2: Formation for a brigade in the attack. The light infantry form the front line, but with only a small part of their men in skirmish formation at any time; supporting light infantry are close at hand to provide reserves, replacements and a rallying point should the enemy cavalry attack. (Drawing by John Cook)

he suggested dividing it into three sections. The smaller was to be used to open the fight, the larger part to support the main attack while the rest were to be held in reserve. He pointed out that the cavalry must not be used too early, but rather in mass at the right time. The horse artillery should be used to disrupt the enemy's formation before the cavalry attacked. A large number of rifle-armed volunteers had joined the army in 1813; Frederick William recommended that they be used in defensive positions in woods, or behind other cover, to take full advantage of the ballistic superiority of their weapons. In feint attacks, the artillery should be spread out to give the impression of larger numbers. In real attacks, it needed to be concentrated to give strong supporting fire at the appropriate point.

Frederick William's Instruction also outlined how a corps of four brigades was to be used. A skirmish line formed from several battalions would tease one of the enemy's flanks, and artillery would support this feint. Once the enemy sent in reserves to support the point attacked, the main attack would commence using the main mass of infantry and artillery, supported if possible by a flanking attack elsewhere. The corps artillery would be formed into a grand battery. One brigade supported by 12 to 20 guns would undertake the feint; two brigades with 40 guns would stage the main attack, while the final brigade with 40 guns would form the reserve. The cavalry would be held in reserve until the appropriate time. The feint would last about one hour. The main attack, preferably a flanking move, would then follow. If the enemy was holding a village or wood, howitzer fire was to be used to force them to retire. The main attack was to be made at bayonet point. If the enemy wavered, the attack would be pressed home; if he resisted, reserves were to be brought up.

The expansion of the army in 1813 and the inclusion of the Reserve and Militia battalions led to brigades being of different sizes. The general principles of the brigade tactics outlined above were retained – a skirmish line, the main body and a reserve – but alterations were made to the numbers of battalions in each wave. In 1813, some brigades were



internally divided into two elements, also confusingly called 'brigades' – one of regulars and Reserves, one of Militia. A so-called brigade commander (Brigade-Commandeur) would lead the Militia brigade, while the brigade general (Brigade-Chef) would command the whole formation. In 1815, the nine battalions of the brigade also fought in three waves. The first consisted of two light battalions (from the line regiments), the second of four musketeer battalions, the third of one light and two musketeer battalions.

This section of the 1812 Reglement shows very clearly that the Prussian General Staff had learned the lessons of Napoleonic warfare. Taken as a whole, this Reglement represents the epitome of Napoleonic tactics and grand tactics.

Fig.3: Brigade formation for an attack with the bayonet. Once the enemy showed signs of wavering after the opening of the battle by the light infantry, the second wave of troops would press home at the point of the bayonet. The light infantry would fall back on the flanks to reform in column and join the third wave. (Drawing by John Cook)

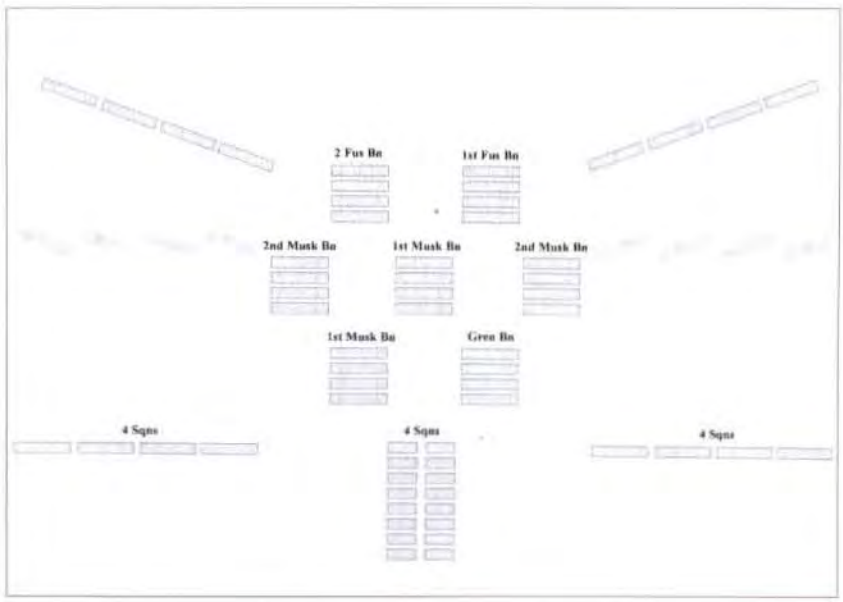


Fig.4: Brigade formation to receive cavalry attack. The infantry battalions form closed squares in a chequerboard formation for mutual support. After the enemy cavalry had been disrupted by this defensive fire, the Prussian brigade's cavalry would then move up in support to chase them off.

ARTILLERY & ENGINEERS

Organisation and strength

In 1787 the Field Artillery Corps was reorganised, all four regiments being brought to the same establishment of 53 officers, 40 sergeants, 100 corporals, 220 bombardiers, 1,600 gunners, 10 surgeons, 8 oboists and 10 drummers (11 in the 3rd and 4th Regiments). The Horse Artillery was amalgamated into three companies, with a total of 16 officers, 12 sergeants, 30 corporals, 66 bombardiers, 480 gunners and 3 surgeons. The Pontonier Corps was attached to the artillery, and in 1787 consisted of 4 officers, 6 NCOs and 48 men. In time of war their numbers were increased. In 1790 a total of 153 pontoons were available along with a number of bridging trains.

The equipment of the artillery was reorganised in 1787. The light 12-pounders were recast as heavy 6-pounders. The howitzers were withdrawn from the battalion guns, i.e. the artillery elements attached directly to infantry units. The all-howitzer batteries were disbanded, and all howitzers were transferred to the gun batteries. The number of pieces per battery was reduced from ten to eight, comprising six cannon and two howitzers. In 1787, it was planned to maintain a strength of 66 batteries. These were to include six 'bombardment batteries' each of six heavy 12-pdrs and two heavy 10-pdr howitzers; 22 'normal' 12-pdr batteries, each of six medium 12-pdrs and two light 10-pdr howitzers; 16 heavy 6-pdr batteries, each of six heavy 6-pdrs and two light 10-pdr howitzers; 16 light 6-pdr batteries, each of six light 6-pdrs and two 7-pdr howitzers; and six horse brigades, each of eight light 6-pdrs and one light 7-pdr howitzer, the latter being introduced in 1790. Attached to the infantry were 188 6-pdr and 132 3-pdr battalion guns with the line infantry; 20 light 3-pdrs with the fusiliers (light infantry); and 46 reserve guns. The field artillery reserves in the depots amounted to 894 pieces. In 1788, including fortress and siege artillery, the Prussians had 6,409 pieces at their disposal. In 1790, two batteries each of eight light 10-pdr mortars were added to this total.

An Order-in-Cabinet of 1 October 1791 reduced the number of batteries to 60. These were ten batteries of medium 12-pdrs, 16 of heavy 6-pdrs, and ten of light 6-pdrs in the line; six batteries of light 6-pdrs in the Horse Artillery; four 'bombardment batteries', four batteries of medium 12-pdrs, four of heavy 6-pdrs, four of light 6-pdrs, two of 10-pdr mortars, and ten 3-pdr cannons in the artillery reserve. The number of guns available for use in the field totalled 162 3-pdrs, 320 light 6-pdrs, 120 heavy 6-pdrs, 84 normal 12-pdrs, 24 bombardment pieces, 34 7-pdr howitzers, 76 10-pdr howitzers, and 16 10-pdr mortars. This gave a total of 836 pieces. The batteries were numbered consecutively, i.e. 6-pound Heavy Batteries Nos.1 to 20; Horse Batteries Nos.1 to 6; Bombardment Batteries Nos.1 to 4, etc. There were also 13 Garrison Artillery Companies in the fortresses.

Frederick the Great's Engineer Corps had been weak in both training and performance. His heir attempted to rectify this by increasing its pay and prestige, and a formal structure was established. In 1788 an Engineers' Academy was opened. Frederick William II successfully reorganised and modernised the Prussian artillery. Thanks to him, it was able to play a significant role in the wars of the French

Revolution, particularly at the battles of Pirmasens and Kaiserslautern in 1793.

The size of the artillery and engineer corps following the Convention of Paris of 1808 was set at 6,000 men. Three artillery brigades were formed, each consisting of three horse and 12 foot companies; these were the 1st or Prussian, 2nd or Brandenburg and 3rd or Silesian Artillery Brigades. The artillery companies were designated 'batteries' only when serving their pieces. An artisan company was attached to each artillery brigade.

In time of war, a 6-pdr foot battery was attached to each of the brigades of all arms, while each army corps had an artillery reserve of one 6-pdr and one 12-pdr battery. Each battery consisted of six cannon and two howitzers; the 6-pdr batteries had 7-pdr howitzers, the 12-pdr batteries 10-pdr howitzers. The infantry battalions were no longer equipped with artillery pieces. Six horses were used to draw the 6-pdr pieces, eight for the 12-pounders.

Much of Prussia's artillery was lost in the campaign of 1806. Great efforts were made to replace it in the ensuing years, and by the autumn of 1812 a total of 1,659 pieces were available. This was more than adequate for an army restricted to 42,000 men, but additional pieces had to be obtained from elsewhere during the mobilisation of 1813. The equipment of one of the 11 horse batteries in March 1813 was from Britain; in the Autumn Campaign, four of the 30 foot batteries were using British guns, as was one of the 12 horse batteries. One of the six 12-pdr batteries used captured French pieces. It is remarkable that a virtually bankrupt Prussia was able in such circumstances to supply much of its own artillery.

Artillery & Pontonnier Corps, 1800: private (left), officer (right). Prussian blue frock coats with black facings and yellow metal buttons; white smallclothes; the private has a red neck stock, the officer white. Note that the officer has gold buttonhole lace only below his turned-back lapels and on his forearms. (Ramm)

Equipment and performance

The 6-pdr cannon were made of bronze; the 12-pdrs had either bronze or iron barrels. Most of the equipment and designs dated from the end of the 18th century. The field artillery mainly used roundshot, i.e. solid cannon balls, that were generally lighter than the nominal calibre of the piece. Howitzers used shells – hollow iron balls filled with gunpowder and set off by a measured time fuse that was ignited in the barrel by the firing of the propellant charge. About one third of the ammunition used was canister – hollow cases containing a number of small iron balls, which burst at the muzzle; this type of ammunition was used to great effect at close range. Howitzers and mortars also fired incendiary shot, used to set alight buildings and fortifications. Flares were also used..

The field artillery normally fired over open sights, setting the range by elevating the barrel of the piece. The cannon ball would be aimed to strike just to the front of the target so that it would glance up and ricochet through it. An elevation of zero degrees would cause the ball to strike at about 400 paces, then bounce to 1,000 paces before rolling on to 2,100 paces. One degree of elevation would cause the ball to glance at 800 paces, then bounce to 1,300 paces before rolling on to 2,200 paces. The effective range of field artillery firing ball was thus between 400 and 1,300 paces. Howitzers lobbed their shells, firing at elevations of between 3 and 12 degrees, and their effective ranges were up to 2,900 paces. Mortars lobbed their shells around 2,000 paces at elevations of between 43 and 45 degrees. Canister was generally used at ranges of under 1,000

paces, being most effective at 600 to 800 paces. The 6-pdr guns could fire a maximum of 1½ rounds per minute, howitzers two rounds in three minutes, though such rates of fire could not be maintained for long without exhausting both the crews and their ammunition supplies.

Artillery uniforms: 1792–1807

Foot Artillery uniforms were similar to those of the infantry. From 1787, a Prussian blue frock coat was worn, with blue facings and yellow buttons. The waistcoat and breeches were white. The field artillery wore red neck stocks, the garrison artillery black. The headgear consisted of the newly introduced 'casquette' cocked hat, which bore a flaming grenade badge. The sidearm was the 'Pallasch' straight sword. Officers had laced coats; NCOs wore gold buttonhole lace; and drummers wore 22 bars of woollen lace, 16 of which terminated in tassels.

In 1798 the artillery was given its characteristic black facings, and at the same time a tricorn replaced the casquette. The officers' facings were made of velvet; they had ten buttons on their lapels along with 18 bars of lace. The Feuerwerker had 12 narrower bars of lace; bombardiers had woollen lace, and sergeant's lace had terminal tassels. In 1799, the eight Silesian garrison artillery companies replaced their black neck stocks with red, officers with white.

The Horse Artillery wore largely the same uniform, but with typical cavalry distinctions with regard to the hat, legwear and boots. Plumes could only be worn in the field. In 1801, dragoon-style coatees were introduced. The hat had a cockade and feather plume. Cavalry overalls were worn with hussar boots, and a short sword was carried on a dragoon belt. All the black facings were piped red. From 1802, officers' hats lost their lace, but had a feather plume held in place with a cavalry clasp. NCOs wore gold lace on their collars, cuffs, shoulder straps and cartridge box belt; the Feuerwerker had a gold clasp on their hats. The blue saddlecloths were rectangular and edged in black, the black stripe being piped in yellow along both edges; The royal monogram was displayed in each corner. Greatcoat covers were blue.

1808–1815

Artillerymen wore the standard coatee of the period, officers the long-tailed coat. The Foot Artillery wore infantry-style clothing, the Horse Artillery that of the cavalry. The coatee was Prussian blue with red tail turn-backs for the Foot Artillery, black with poppy-red piping for the Horse Artillery. The collars were black piped poppy-red along the front and lower edge until 1815, when the new, lower collar was introduced; thereafter the piping ran along the top edge and front. The Guard Artillery had yellow Guard lace on their collars and cuffs. Buttons were yellow. The Prussian Brigade had white shoulder straps, the Silesian yellow, the Brandenburg and the Guard poppy-red. The Guard and Horse Artillery had Swedish cuffs; the Foot Artillery had Brandenburg cuffs with a blue flap. Bombardiers had gold lace on their cuffs, sergeants on both their collars and cuffs. Musicians wore black 'swallows' nests' on the shoulders of their coatees; the Guard had yellow lace and fringes on theirs, the line white lace alone. From 1809, the Horse Artillery was also permitted to wear the longer 'Litewka' coat.

Officers had the usual officers' distinctions as described in the relevant earlier volumes of this series.

The shakos of the Foot Artillery were as for the infantry. Those of the Horse Artillery had brass chin scales (officers, a gilded chain), a black and white cockade (black and silver for officers), and a brass Guard Star for the other ranks of the Guard Artillery; officers of the Guard Artillery had a silver star with an enamelled badge. The other ranks of the line artillery had a brass grenade badge. Shako cords were yellow for the rankers, black and white for NCOs; in 1814 the Guard received red cords. Officers could also wear a black cocked hat with a silver and black cockade for the Horse Artillery, and a plain gold cord clasp for the Foot Artillery. The Horse Artillery had a mixed black and white feather plume, the Foot Artillery black.

In 1809, as a temporary measure, the Foot Artillery was supplied with the same artillery sword as carried by the Horse Artillery; it was intended to replace these with the normal infantry sidearm once supplies became available. Sidearms were in very short supply in the Prussian Army at this date and captured French items were frequently used.

The Foot Artillery had black cross belts and cartridge boxes; the Guard had a brass Guard Star on the box, the line the grenade badge. The artillerymen were armed with standard infantry muskets, but did not take these on campaign. NCOs had a carbine and bayonet, which they did take on campaign. Drivers and mounted NCOs of the Foot Artillery also had cross belts, infantry swords and cartridge boxes. Officers of the Foot Artillery were armed with the standard musketeer officer's épée. Different coloured sword knots were used to designate the companies/batteries.

Other ranks of the Horse Artillery were armed with the hussar sabre slung from a white belt; they also carried pistols, and a black cartridge box on a white belt. The Guard Artillery had the Guard Star on their cartridge boxes, the line the grenade badge.

Unmounted artillerymen carried the normal infantry backpacks and bread bags. The Horse Artillery had grey greatcoat covers on their saddles. Artillerymen were not supplied with canteens; instead they were equipped with field kettles.

Horse equipment followed the pattern used by the dragoons and was black. Other ranks' saddlecloths were dark blue piped in red, with rounded corners; they also had a black stripe piped red along both edges running parallel to the edges of the saddlecloth. The draft horses had a rectangular saddlecloth in the same colours. Officers also had the dark blue rounded cloth, but with a poppy-red stripe along the outer edge; above that were two black stripes, both piped red. The saddlecloths of the Guard also bore a silver Guard Star in each corner.

Artisan Companies From 1809, one artisan company was attached to each artillery brigade. The men wore the same uniform as their brigade. They were armed with the infantry musket and bayonet and carried an infantry cartridge box. The men had white sword knots with a black body. The sidearm was to be the 'Old Prussian' (i.e. pre-1808 pattern) short sword, as carried by the Guard.

Ammunition Columns Men of the ammunition columns wore the same uniforms as the Foot Artillery, but carried the infantry musket and appropriate cartridge box.

Artillery officer, 1806. As specific distinctions were only introduced from 1808 it is not possible to give this figure an exact rank. The Prussian blue coatee has black facings and gilt buttons; the hat trim is gold, the pull cords silver and black, as is the waist sash; the stock, waistcoat and breeches are white. (Henschel)

Gunner, 1806. White hat trim; Prussian blue coatee with black facings and yellow buttons; red neck stock, white belts, waistcoat and breeches. Note the chained brass prickers attached to his cross belt; the sword's fist strap is shown as brown leather with a green knot. (Henschel)

Engineer Corps (Ingenieur-Korps)

The uniforms of the officers of the Staff of the Engineer Corps were as those of the line Engineers (see below), but without a brigade number on the shoulder straps. From 1808 to 1810 these straps were blue; thereafter they were black, piped red.

Engineer Battalions (Pionier-Bataillone)

From 1787 the engineers wore the infantry-style uniform with black facings and lining, made of velvet for the officers. The officers' lace was silver, the waistcoat and legwear chamois. In 1798, red lining was introduced along with open, square cuffs and pale yellow waistcoats.

From 1808 the uniform consisted of the same blue coats as the artillery, with red tail turn-backs, black collars and Swedish cuffs piped red. Buttons were white. The black shoulder straps were piped red.

The shakos had a white band around the upper edge (silver for NCOs and officers); the black and white cockade was held in place by a white clasp (silver for officers). From 1814 the new-style shako with white cords was introduced. The grey field caps had a black band. Officers wore black feather plumes on the cocked hats.

The other ranks were equipped with a machete (Faschinenmesser) with a saw-toothed cutting edge. Belts were black, and sword knots were coloured to designate the companies as in the line infantry.

Pontoon Trains These wore the same uniform as the Engineers. From 1787 they had the royal monogram 'FWR' on their casquettes instead of the flaming grenade.

Miners From 1787, miners wore the infantry uniform with blue lapels, but orange collars and cuffs; they displayed the 'FWR' cipher on their casquettes. The sidearm was the infantry sabre. Officers had 24 bars of gold lace, NCOs gold lace on their collars. From 1798 they wore the artillery uniform, but with different hat cords. They carried the normal sword knots, not leather like the artillery. They were also armed with pistols carried on a white belt.

Train Companies

Each of the three artillery brigades formed in 1809 was allocated one Train company. They and all artisans attached to them wore dark blue coatees with light blue collars and cuffs, red shoulder straps and white buttons. The grey field caps had a light blue band. The shakos had a white wool clasp and button holding a cockade, which differed in colour according to function. It was light blue for Bakers, dark blue for the Provisions Train and Horse Depots; War Commissaries had light red cockades, the Field Treasury light green, the Supply Offices lemon-yellow, the Field Hospitals blood-red. The Field Post wore orange cockades, but its despatch riders blue cockades and an orange feather plume. Mounted Train soldiers were armed with pistols and cavalry sabres and had black belts; those on foot were armed with carbines and carried small cartridge boxes on black belts.

Until 1813 soldiers of the Train attached to other formations wore this uniform, but from 6 March that year they were ordered to wear the same uniform as the regiment to which they were attached.

Stretcher-Bearer Companies (Krankenträger-Kompanien) Introduced in 1814, one of these companies was attached to each of the three Prussian

army corps. They wore grey infantry caps with dark blue piping and a black waxed cloth cover, grey Litewkas with dark blue collars and yellow buttons. The long grey trousers were worn over the gaiters. Belts were black, and they were armed with a sabre.

ARTILLERY TACTICS

By reducing the number of types of pieces used in the field from 1787, Frederick William II helped to make the artillery more efficient. However, the experience of the Revolutionary Wars, when the heavier French 8-pdrs made an impression on Prussian gunners equipped with 6-pdrs, focused attention on the issue of artillery calibres. The Duke of Brunswick and other senior officers saw the situation differently: they believed that it was not the calibres or even the numbers of cannon used that decided the issue, but rather their tactical handling. This view was supported by Major-General Georg Friedrich Ludwig von Tempelhoff (1737–1807), the most experienced artillery officer in the Prussian Army. He also called for the abolition of the battalion guns attached to each infantry unit, instead attaching a battery of artillery to each brigade of infantry.

Scharnhorst also supported changes in the use of artillery, calling for an increase in the number of horse batteries in a memorandum of September 1802. He wanted each of the planned 18 divisions to have a battery of 12-pdrs and a horse battery attached to them. Furthermore, he called for six horse batteries to be allocated to the reserve cavalry, and for the formation of an artillery reserve of at least six batteries.

On the outbreak of war in 1806, much of the heavy artillery was not taken on campaign in an attempt to increase the mobility of the army. In the summer of 1806 it had been decided to replace 16 of the 12-pdr batteries with 6-pounders; however, this decision was not implemented in time for the Jena campaign. The Prussian vanguard at the battle of Saalfeld had an artillery reserve, but its 12 guns were difficult to manoeuvre and one of its batteries was captured. The increase in the size of the Horse Artillery recommended by Scharnhorst had taken place, and in 1805 it consisted a regiment of ten companies – one fifth of the total field artillery. This branch was also better trained, having more equipment available for that purpose in peacetime.

From 1796, each battery was divided into three divisions (Züge) that were deployed 50-60 paces apart. One howitzer was placed on each flank; and each gun was placed 12 to 20 paces apart. Until it reached a distance of 800 paces from the enemy (effective canister range) the battery was to advance by division so that firing was uninterrupted. Fire was to be concentrated on the enemy's infantry and cavalry; enemy artillery was to be engaged only if the fire could be effective.

Movement was made in a column of one, two or three divisions. Turning, wheeling or deploying in the direction of march were used to form line. The battery in line manoeuvred and made changes of front. Advancing and retiring was to be by division. The Horse Artillery practised moving at speed, unlimbering and limbering up quickly. The Prussian artillery at this time had a high ésprit de corps and its tactical doctrine was good for the period.

Artillery NCO in 1807 pattern uniform. There had been plans to introduce new uniforms from 1807, but the defeats at Jena and Auerstedt prevented this; instead, new and more spartan uniforms were introduced from 1808. This figure has a yellow top band on the shako; a brass three-flamed bomb plate; and the plume and cockade are shown as red, yellow and black – reading inwards to the centre. The blue coatee has black facings, yellow buttons and yellow lace loops on the forearms; the neckstock is red, the waistcoat and breeches white. (Henschel)

As the field batteries kept the best men for themselves, only the battalion guns left something to be desired. Their gunners received only four to six weeks' training every two years, which was hardly adequate. In the field they had problems keeping up with the advancing infantry, and were often unable to provide adequate fire support at the critical moment. The propensity to place the artillery on the nearest high point led to it firing over the heads of the enemy, especially at close range. When the elevation of the piece was lowered, the ball tended to land short and then bounce high over the enemy. Canister rounds spread their load over a wide area, but about half of the balls struck the ground in the first 50 paces, either burying themselves or bouncing over the heads of the enemy.

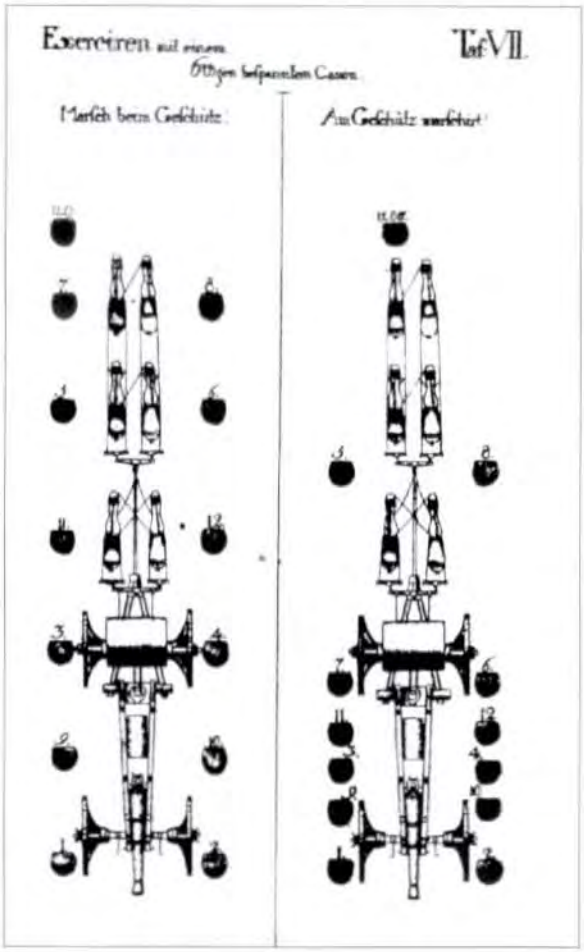
To sum up, in the early part of this period the Prussian Army benefited from a numerous, excellent and mobile Horse Artillery. The well-trained Foot Artillery was armed with heavy pieces that lacked mobility; however, the battalion artillery was poor. Furthermore, there was no large central artillery reserve that could be used to form grand batteries.

A new set of drill regulations (Reglement) was issued for the artillery in 1812 along with the rest of the army. These were based in part on earlier instructions; Major-General Prince August of Prussia (1779–1843) had a particular interest in the artillery and influenced much of its training. This Reglement was divided into two main parts. The first covered the basic training of the artilleryman. The Foot Artillery was trained in the use of small arms, the Horse Artillery with swords and pistols and in the use of the horse. However, arms drill was reduced to a minimum, as the main role of the gunner was of course to serve artillery pieces.

The artillery was trained to form up in two ranks, the Foot Artillery two feet apart, the Horse Artillery two paces, like the cavalry. When mounted the horse gunners formed in two ranks two feet apart. They rode in files of four to facilitate turning. An 'about face' was always made with two left turns. Wheeling was done by troops in sections of twos and fours.

When formed in two ranks, the Foot Artillery companies stood with their NCOs at regular intervals two paces to the rear of the second rank. When two to five companies formed up together they were considered a battalion; six companies were divided into two battalions. These formations were used when on parade. The musicians stood behind the centre of the battalion, two paces behind the officers, with oboists to the right and drummers to the left. The trumpeters of the Horse Artillery drew up in two ranks four paces from the right flank of the line. The Horse Artillery normally paraded with its pieces.

(continued on page 33)



Drill positions with a limbered 6-pdr cannon. (Left) the crew in marching order in a non-combat situation; (right) the men marching by the gun in a combat situation. This is taken from the 1804 drill regulations written by Meerkatz and with drawings by Gleim, but the drill throughout this period remained largely unaltered. The gunners are numbered – in the right hand plan, 'U.Off.' for the NCO, then 5 & 8, 7 & 6, 11 & 12, 3 & 4, 9 & 10, 1 & 2.

FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WARS, 1790

1: King's ADC (Flügel-Adjutant) of cavalry

2: Lieutenant-General of cavalry

3: Feldjäger courier

LIGNY, BELGIUM,
16 JUNE 1815
1: Stabskapitän
2: Lieutenant-General
von Gneisenau
3: Cavalry ADC
1
2
3

AIDES & COURIER, GERMANY, 1813–15

1: Infantry ADC, parade dress

2: Cavalry ADC, campaign dress

3: Sergeant of Feldjägers, campaign dress

FIELD ARTILLERY CREW, 1790S
1: Officer
3: Sergeant
2, 4, 5, 6 & 7: Gunners – see text commentaryfor details
1
2
3
4

D

E

TECHNICAL TROOPS, 1801–07

1: Master Wagoner, Supply Train, 1805–07

2: Miner, 1801–07

3: Master Gunner, 1805–07

F

ARTILLERY, 1808–15

1: Gunner, Brandenburg Artillery Bde

2: Officer, Guard Artillery 3: General of Artillery Prinz August

G

ENGINEERS & MEDICAL, 1808–15
1: Private, Engineers, 1808–14
2: Field surgeon, 1808–15
3: Stretcher-bearer, 1814
1
2
3

The second part of the Reglement covered training with the artillery pieces. An Order-in-Cabinet of 7 December 1808 set the numbers of men as follows:

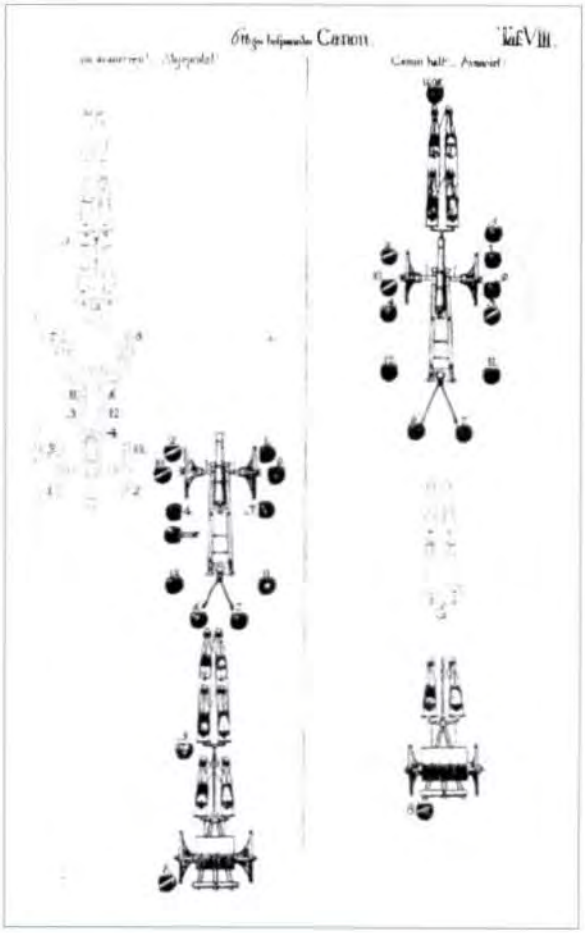
6-pdr foot batteries		
Serving the guns	72	men
Driving the guns	24	men
In reserve	20	men
Total	*116*	*men*
Horse batteries		
Serving the guns	72	men
Driving the guns & supply wagons	27	men
Driving the ammunition wagons	15	men
In reserve	18	men
Total	*132*	*men*
12-pdr batteries		
Serving the guns	96	men
Driving the guns	32	men
Driving the ammunition wagons (x10)	30	men
Driving the supply wagons (x2)	6	men
Total	*184*	*men*

The methods for serving each type of piece – 6-pdrs and 12-pdrs, 7-pdr and 10-pdr howitzers – were specified in the Reglement:

6-pdr field piece

One sergeant and eight gunners served this piece. Nos.7 and 8 were in reserve; in the Horse Artillery, they held the horses when the gun was unlimbered.

A cannon was served by order: 'Wipe piece! – Cartridge! – Insert! – Port–Fire! – Aim! – Fire! – Return Cannon!' The No.1 sponged the barrel to extinguish any glowing embers that might prematurely ignite the next charge; meanwhile the No.4 (a responsible veteran, often holding the rank of bombardier) kept his thumb over the touchhole, to prevent the rush of air caused by the tight-fitting sponge from re-igniting any sparks, and to create a vacuum as the sponge was withdrawn. The No.2 took the round – charge and shot – from the No.5, who had carried it up from the trail chest or the limber, and placed it in the muzzle. The No.1 then reversed his combined ramrod and sponge and rammed it home; again, the No.4 guarded the vent. As the charge bag reached the breech end of the barrel he felt for it with a brass pricker through the touchhole, pierced it, and held it in place. On the command 'Port-Fire!' the No.4 then took from his pouch a port-fire or fuze – a small paper tube of fine priming powder – bit off its end, removed the pricker from the touchhole, and inserted the port-fire; if he had none, he used loose priming powder from his flask. Next, the No.4 laid the piece by looking along the barrel and indicating to the No.3 how much to traverse it, the latter using the trail-spike to lever the trail around the fulcrum of the carriage's axle. The No.4 then adjusted



This plan shows (left), how a 6-pdr cannon was unlimbered to the fore. The cannon was unhooked, and swung around – the gunners being in position to do so as they were marching each side of it – and made ready to fire, while the limber was moved to the rear. (Right) shows how a team of four horses was unhooked and attached to the gun to move it forwards while in a combat situation; the NCO leads the team.

the elevation by means of a screw and wedge under the breech; and on the command, the No.3 ignited the charge with his linstock. The gun was then run back into its position before being sponged again. To facilitate rapid canister fire, two rounds were always carried in the ammunition chest on the trail of the gun, and supplies from the limber were brought up immediately to replace them.

12-pdr field piece

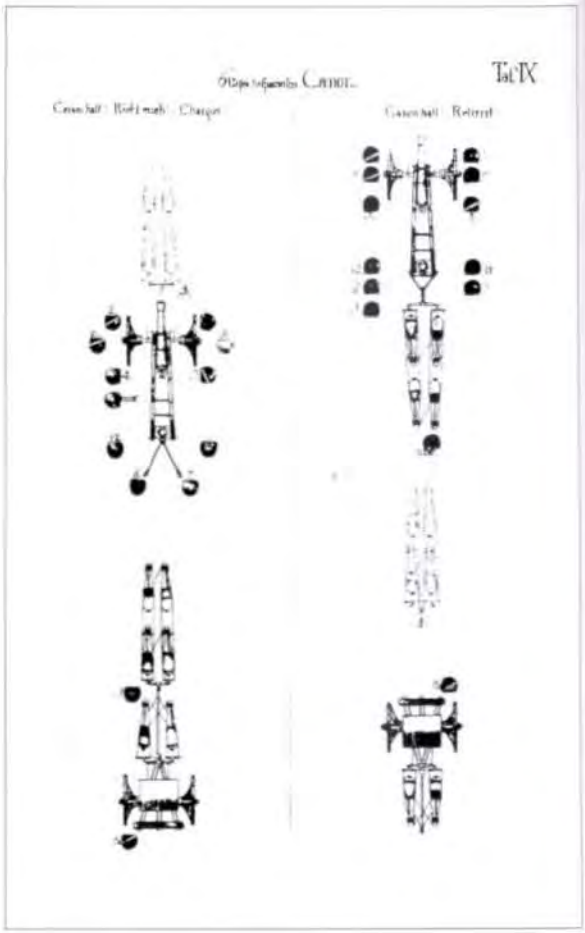
One sergeant and 12 men served this piece. Nos.1 to 6 operated as for the 6-pounder. Nos.7 and 8 stood behind the piece and help lay it with the trail-spikes. Nos.9 and 10 stood with the ammunition wagon, and Nos.11 and 12 in reserve – they helped limber and unlimber the piece. Loading and firing was conducted as for the 6-pounder.

7-pdr field howitzer

One sergeant (called a Feuerwerker in the howitzer batteries) and 11 men served this piece. Nos.1 to 8 operated as for the 6-pdr, but both Nos.2 and 4 were bombardiers. No.9 was in charge of the ammunition wagon; No.10 brought up the shells, and No.11 was in reserve. Loading and firing was conducted as for the 6-pdr, except that the No.2 pushed the charge down the barrel by hand, making sure that the fuze was to the front, in the direction of fire. If it was not possible to fire by line of sight, a gunner's quadrant was used to set the elevation.

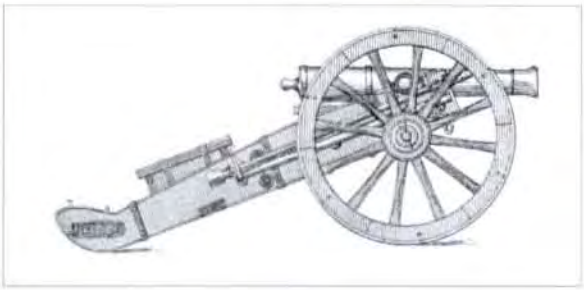
10-pdr field howitzer

This piece was served essentially in the same way as the 7-pdr howitzer. One additional man was placed in reserve, and a further two served the additional ammunition wagon, giving a total of one sergeant and 14 men.



The next step (left) would be to stop, unhook the team, load and make ready to fire, while gunner No.5 led the team back to the limber. (Right) how the cannon would be withdrawn when facing the enemy; again, the Unteroffizier leads the four-horse team hitched up to the gun.

A further section of the Reglement covered the use of **siege and fortress artillery**. The field pieces described above could be used in fortress warfare and were served as above, except that five men sufficed to crew them and two guns were placed under the command of a sergeant or bombardier. Six men served the heavy guns and seven the howitzers. Three men served the light mortars, at least one of whom had to be a bombardier. One Feuerwerker commanded two to three mortars, and a bombardier was responsible for weighing the charges in a powder chamber. The piece was laid with trail-spikes, the elevation set with the screw and checked with a gunner's quadrant. The charge was poured into the barrel with a measurer and a gunner winched the round into place. The fuze was positioned, the muzzle covered, and the cover removed on the order: 'Mortar – Fire!' Five men served the heavy mortars. One Feuerwerker commanded two mortars, with one



Prussian 6-pounder cannon. The World Wars of the 20th century played havoc with German archive material; surviving Prussian artillery pieces of the Napoleonic period are few and far between, as are drawings of them. This drawing comes from the German General Staff *History of the Prussian Army in the Wars of Liberation*. (GGS)

bombardier weighing their charges; two men were needed to carry the rounds.

This Reglement ensured that all Prussian gunners received the same training in serving their pieces. The orders and movements were relatively simple, making it possible to train the inexperienced quickly; and casualties could be replaced by reserves immediately. This facilitated the expansion of the artillery arm in 1813.

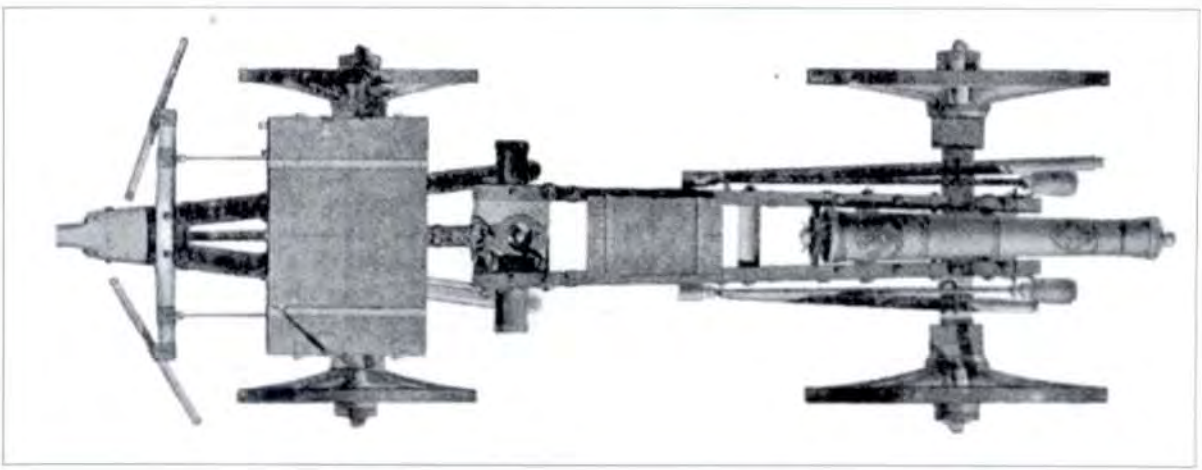
Movement

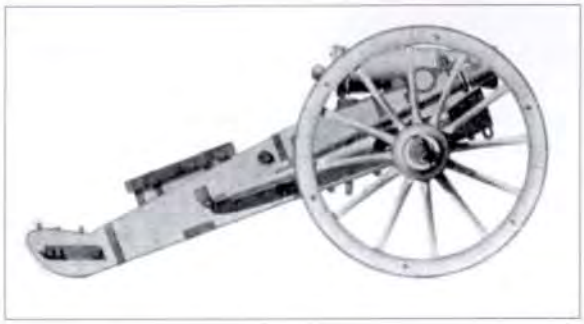
A further section of the Reglement covered the training of gunners to move the individual pieces. When marching and on parade the men, led by their sergeant, marched in two ranks two paces behind the gun. On campaign, they walked at the side of their gun. If the enemy was nearby, the slow match was carried lit at all times. The gunners were trained to unlimber 'to the fore' and 'to the rear'; for the former the gun was unlimbered and immediately turned to face the enemy, and the limber was then driven at a trot to the left and rear. When unlimbering to the rear, the limber was driven to the left and rear and the gun was then unlimbered. Attached ropes known as 'prolonges' were used to move the unlimbered gun.

In the Horse Artillery, the mounted crew rode in two ranks next to their gun when in the field; when on parade they rode in two ranks two paces behind it. When manoeuvring, the first rank rode five paces to the rear of the gun's muzzle, the second rank two paces behind them. The files were sufficiently far apart to facilitate easy dismounting.When dismounted, Nos.7 and 8 held the horses. Unlimbering to the fore or rear was conducted in much the same way as by the Foot Artillery. To move distances of less than 100 paces, the Horse Artillery preferred to tow the pieces with the prolonge rather than limber up.

Attention was also paid to the movement and positioning of a battery. The battery was drawn up in such a way that the eight guns were 20 paces apart; the two howitzers were in the centre, with three cannon on each side. The battery was divided into two half-batteries, each consisting of three cannon and one howitzer. The battery was also

Prussian 6-pdr on a limber. This photograph of an original piece was taken before World War I; it compliments the drawings of the Meerkatz/Gleim plates on earlier pages. (GGS)





Prussian 7-pdr howitzer. The wooden components of Prussian artillery pieces and wagons were painted a dull mid-blue; as in most period armies, the ironwork was painted black to protect it from rust. (GGS).

divided into four divisions (Züge) each of two pieces. These divisions were numbered 1 to 4 from the right.

The ammunition train of a heavy battery of six 12-pdrs and two 10-pdr howitzers consisted of six cartridge wagons, four carrying shells, and two supply wagons. These were drawn up in two lines 20 paces to the rear of the guns. The second line stood ten paces to the rear of the first. On parade, markers were used to guide their rapid deployment.

When on static parade, the battery was unlimbered and the gun muzzles aligned with the first rank of troops standing near them. The men took up their firing positions, the Foot Artillery stacking their small arms behind the limbers. The battery commander held the horses in the centre of the battery and the remaining officers stood between the guns to the right of their division. When marching on parade, the guns were limbered, the officers took up their positions, and the gunners collected their small arms. The march-past was conducted by divisions.

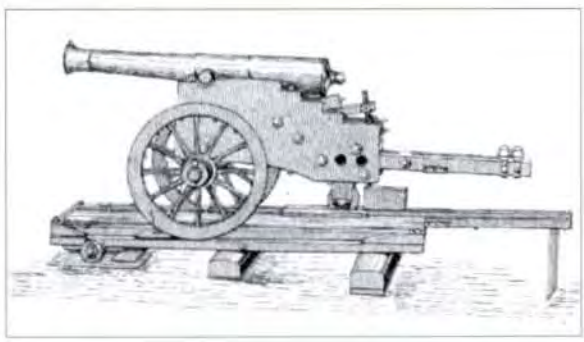
A battery in line could march by the front. In such an event, the officer with gun No.5 indicated the direction. The foot gunners marched at the sides of their pieces, the horse gunners five paces to the rear, the second rank two paces behind them. Turns to the left and right were practised, as were wheels. Deployment by division or half-battery and reforming in battery were likewise conducted.

Firing positions for individual guns were taken up not only by limbering to the fore or rear, but also by movement with the prolonge. The battery wagons came along until a firing position was taken up, when they were left up to 800 paces to the rear.

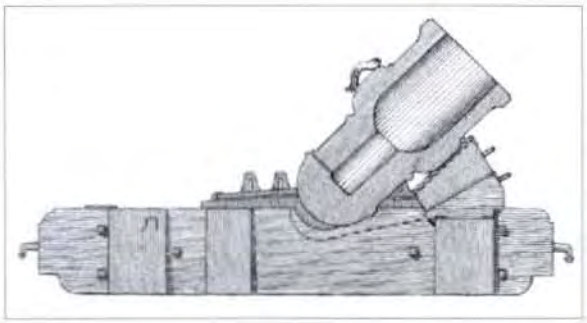
Column could be formed by individual guns or by divisions. The order: 'Battery – By twos from the centre – March!' was given. Guns Nos.4 and 5 then moved forwards and the other guns followed. For a column of one, No.4 took the point, followed by Nos.5, 3, 6, 2, 7, 1 and 8. A column of ones was only to be used when the terrain made it impossible to use a column of divisions. The columns were trained to wheel, to turn to the left and right, to deploy and reform in divisions.

The order: 'Battery – Make Front!' was given to form line from columns of one. This was done with a half-turn in the direction wanted, and it did not matter if the No.1 Gun ended up on the left or the right flank. Deploying in this manner took longer because of the length of the column. A column of divisions deployed by wheeling to the left and right, then moving to form a front.

Prussian 12-pdr gun on a fortress carriage. (GGS)



The Reglement hardly mentioned moving and deploying several batteries at once, and this was considered one of its weaknesses. Instead, the single battery was considered the standard tactical unit. When several batteries were drawn up in line they were required to maintain an interval of 50 paces between each battery. Moving forwards, backwards and simple manoeuvres were practised. Several batteries were not all to fire at



Cutaway drawing of a Prussian 50-pdr siege mortar on a static wooden carriage. Being cumbersome to move, mortars were generally used either as part of the fortress artillery or attached to siege trains. Note the much smaller diameter of the chamber for the projectile charge compared with the section of the barrel which accepted the massive shell. (GGS)

once; rather, whole or preferably half-batteries would move, covered by the fire of the others. Columns of several batteries were formed in much the same way as for individual batteries.

In the Foot Artillery signals were given by drum, in the Horse Artillery by trumpet. However, the Reglement emphasised that verbal orders were preferable. The signals were divided into two categories: 'manoeuvre' signals and 'quarter' signals. The manoeuvre signals included 'Walk', 'Trot', 'Gallop', 'Stop' and 'Make front'. Just one signal was used in combat situations – a long drum roll indicating 'Cease fire'. The quarter signals of the Foot Artillery included 'Reveille', 'Fire alarm', 'Alarm', 'Lights out' and 'General march'. Those of the Horse Artillery also included 'Retreat', 'Saddle up' and 'Guard parade'.

The final section of the Reglement covered the use of artillery as part of the brigade of all arms. Here, the artillery played a supporting role to the infantry, being deployed on the flanks of the battalion columns.

The Reglement of 1812 was, taken as a whole, a welcomed change. It replaced a whole series of Instructions and established practices that had developed over the years. One of its few faults was the inclusion of howitzers in the field batteries, as their rate of fire was slower than that of the cannon, and the smoke from the latter often blocked their line of sight. Despite these shortcomings, this Reglement was a most useful document and the training it gave was exemplary.

COLOURS & STANDARDS

1787–1797

Under Frederick William II, only the infantry, cuirassier and dragoon regiments carried flags. At this time there were 55 infantry regiments each of two battalions (Nos.3 and 15 had three, Nos.6 and 50 only one); 13 cuirassier regiments, a total of 63 squadrons; and 12 dragoon regiments, a total of 70 squadrons.

Each infantry regiment carried four colours: the king's (Leibfahne) and three colonel's colours (Regimentsfahnen). Each musketeer battalion carried two colours, the 1st Battalion carrying the king's. The grenadiers and fusiliers did not carry colours. The pattern carried did not change from those of Frederick the Great's army; see Chart 1 for basic details.[1]

Each cuirassier squadron carried a standard and each dragoon squadron a colour. These, too, were unchanged since the time of Frederick the Great, and many were either the originals first issued under Frederick William I or copies of these. By 1813 these flags were in some cases a century old. The dragoon squadron newly raised in Danzig did not carry a colour as its role was largely policing. Any poles that were renewed were given the new royal monogram 'FWR' on the finial.

The Prussian Army did not lose a single flag to the enemy during the Revolutionary Wars.

1 Colour paintings of a number of these designs will be found in Men-at-Arms 78, *Flags of the Napoleonic Wars (2)*

1797–1807

Under Frederick William III the number of infantry regiments was increased to 58. The number of cuirassier regiments remained unchanged; however, in 1798 the Garde du Corps (Cuirassier Regt No.13) was increased to five squadrons. In 1802 a 13th Dragoon Regt of five squadrons was raised, absorbing the Danzig squadron; and in 1803 a 14th Regt, likewise of five squadrons, was founded.

The only change to the infantry colours was the renewal of those of the Duke of Brunswick's Regt (No.21) in 1802. In 1798 the Garde du Corps received new standards. The two new dragoon regiments were issued with the usual style of colour, but with the 'FWR' monogram. See Charts 1, 2 & 3 for basic details.

In 1806, the Prussian army had 236 infantry colours, 65 cuirassier standards and 80 dragoon colours. The losses in the Jena campaign included nearly all infantry colours except those of IR Nos. 2, 8, 11, 14, 16, 42, 52, and 58.

It is said that at Jena on 10 October 1806, when Infantry Regiment No.32, the Regiment Hohenlohe, began to fall back in disorder, a colour-bearer of its II.Bataillon put his hat on the finial of the flagpole and tried to rally his comrades. This colour did indeed survive the battle, but fell into French hands at the capitulation of the fortress of Erfurt only a few days later. Prussian colours were protected in battle with the devotion common to all armies; for instance, after IR No.17, the Regiment Tresckow, suffered heavy losses at Halle on 17 October its colour-bearers Ensigns von Kleist and von Platen, separated from the regiment, attempted to wade the River Saale to escape the pursuing French, but were both drowned and their colours lost. (Drawing by Lebrecht)

1808–1815

After the defeats and capitulations of 1806 the Prussian Army had only 28 of its old infantry colours left. Although it was now only 12 regiments strong, a further 20 new colours were needed, and these were supplied between 1808 and 1811. Although each regiment had four colours – two per musketeer battalion – only one colour (the Avancierfahne, though also still referred to as the Leibfahne) was taken on campaign. The 12 battalions that went to Russia took one colour each; their remaining 12 colours (the Retirierfahnen) were passed on to the six grenadier battalions. The grenadiers took one each of these on campaign in 1813.

The surviving colours of the 'old' army were distributed as follows:

Infantry Regiment No.1 retained the colours of former IR No.2
IR No.2 retained those of former IR No.8
IR No.5 retained those of former IR No.16
IR No.6 retained those of former IR No.52
IR No.7 retained those of former IR No.58
IR No.10 received the Regimentsfahnen of former IR No.38
IR No.11 received those of former IR No.33.

Infantry Regiments Nos.3 and 4 were issued with new colours, the Avancierfahnen being white with black wedges, an orange centre and gold paint; the Retirierfahnen reversed the black and white. Infantry Regiments Nos.8 (Life) and 9 (Colberg) carried the same colours, but with a light blue cartouche inscribed 'Colberg 1807' in honour of their participation in the siege. The Foot Guard Regiment had a white Avancierfahne with silver paint; the Retirierfahne had an orange centre.

Infantry Regiment No.10 lost both its colours at Étoges on 14 February 1814; these were the only flags lost by the Prussian Army from

1812 to 1815, and were not replaced until September 1815.

After the Jena campaign, 49 cavalry standards were left. As each of the four cuirassier and six dragoon regiments now consisted of only four squadrons, there were sufficient standards remaining. The Garde du Corps was allowed to keep all five of its old standards. From 1811, the Prussian cavalry took only one standard per regiment on campaign.

The standards of the 'old' army were reissued as follows:

Cuirassier Regt No. 1 retained the Leib- and three Regimentsstandarten of former Cuirassier Regt No.4

Cuirassier Regt No.2 retained four Regimentsstandarten of former Dragoon Regt No.6

The Garde du Corps retained the Leib- and three Regimentsstandarten of the Garde du Corps

Cuirassier Regt No.4 received two Regimentsstandarten of former Cuirassier Regt No.6 and two of former Dragoon Regt No.6

Dragoon Regt No.1 retained the Leib- and three Regimentsfahnen of former Dragoon Regt No.5

Dragoon Regt No.2 received two Regimentsstandarten of former Cuirassier Regt No.6 and two of former Dragoon Regt No.6

Dragoon Regt No. 3 retained the Leib- and three Regimentsfahnen of former Dragoon Regt No.7

Dragoon Regt No.4 retained four Regimentsfahnen of former Dragoon Regt No.8

Dragoon Regt No.5 received four Regimentsfahnen of former Dragoon Regt No.5

Dragoon Regt No.6 received the Leibfahne of former Dragoon Regt No.3 and three Regimentsfahnen of former Dragoon Regt No.4

None of the new regiments received any colours or standards until after the end of the Waterloo campaign.

Retirierfahne **of the new type presented to IR Nos.3 and 4 in c.1808–10. This is essentially Type 3 from Chart 1, with white wedges, black cross, orange centre, black eagle in new left-facing presentation, silver scroll, red crown cushion, and gold paint including 'FWR' monograms. The finial is a gilt spearhead pierced with the royal monogram; the tasselled cord is silver and black; the pole black, and the sleeve black with gilt nails.**

Presenting the standards to Prince William's Dragoon Brigade in 1808. This regiment is wearing the old uniform of 1806; the new shakos and coatees were issued shortly afterwards. This provisional brigade later became Dragoon Regiment No.2. (Drawing by Lebrecht)

Chart 1: Prussian Infantry Colours 1797–1806

(NB – all are 1740 pattern unless otherwise noted).

No.	Name	Type	Leibfahne	Regimentsfahnen	Colour of Pole
1	Alt-Bornstedt, 1792 Kunheim	1	White field, orange centre, gold paint	Orange field, white centre, silver paint	Brown ochre
2	Henckel, 1793 Brünneck, 1805 Rüchel	1	White field, black centre, gold paint and eagle	Black field, white centre, gold paint	White
3	Thadden, 1800 Renouard	1	White field, yellow centre, silver paint	Yellow field, white centre, silver paint	Yellow ochre
4	Egloffstein, 1789 d'Arnaudrütz, 1797 Kalckreuth	2	White with yellow cross, purple centre, gold paint	Purple with yellow cross, white centre, gold paint	Black
5	Lengefeld, 1789 Kalckstein, 1800 Kleist	2	White with red cross, yellow centre, gold paint	Yellow with red cross, white centre, gold paint	Burnt sienna
6	Grenadier Guard Battalion (see Note 1)	1	White field and centre, gold paint	White field, blue centre, gold paint	Sulphur yellow
7	Goltz, 1790 Tiedemann, 1797 Owstrien	3	White with purple wedges, centre blue, gold paint	Blue with purple wedges, centre white, paint silver	Unknown
8	Scholten, 1791 Pirch, 1795 Ruits	2	White with black cross, black centre, gold paint and eagle	Black with white cross, white centre, gold paint	Umber
9	Budberg, 1792 Manstein, 1796 Winning, 1796 Brehmer, 1802 Schenck	2	White with purple cross, white centre, gold paint	Green with purple cross, white centre gold paint	Burnt umber
10	Marwitz, 1788 Jung-Romberg, 1789 Romberg, 1799 Burghagen 1799 Besser, 1803 Wedel	1	White field, light green centre, gold paint	Light green field, white centre, gold paint	Brown ochre
11	Voss, 1790 Holstein-Beck, 1798 Schöning	2	White with purple cross, purple centre, gold paint	Purple with white cross, white centre, gold paint	Burnt sienna
12	Wunsch, 1788 Kleist, 1800 Braunschweig-Oels	3	White with light green wedges, light green centre, gold paint	Light green with white wedges, white centre, gold paint	Burnt umber
13	Braun, 1794 Arnim	3	White with purple wedges, black centre, silver paint and eagle	Black with purple wedges, white centre, silver paint	Brown ochre
14	Wildau, 1794 Larisch, 1795 Prinz Georg Hohenlohe, 1803 Besser	1	White field, purple centre, gold paint	Purple field, white centre, gold paint	Burnt umber
15	Guard	6	White with silver stripes, silver centre with silver frame, silver and gold embroidery	White with silver stripes, silver centre with blue and silver frame, silver and gold embroidery	Bright yellow
16	Romberg, 1788 Alt-Romberg, 1789 Gillern, 1792 Hausen, 1799 Diericke	2	White with orange cross, orange centre, gold paint	Orange with white cross, white centre, gold paint	Burnt umber
17	Brünning, 1788 Brünneck, 1793 Raumer, 1795 Lange, 1802 Tresckow	3	White with purple wedges, purple centre, gold paint	Purple with white wedges, white centre, gold paint	Black
18	Von Preussen, 1790 Crown Prince's Own, 1797, King's Own	5	White with red wedges, blue centre, silver paint	Blue with red wedges, white centre, silver paint	Unknown
19	Duke Frederick of Brunswick's, 1794 Götze, 1806 Prince of Orange's	7	White with purple wedges, purple centre, gold paint	Purple with white wedges, white centre, gold paint	Burnt sienna
20	Jung-Bornstedt, 1793 Prince of Baden's, 1795 Prince Louis Ferdinand's	1	White field, blue-green centre, gold paint	Blue-green field, white centre, gold paint	Umber
21	Duke of Brunswick's (until 1802)	2	White with black cross, purple centre, gold paint	Purple with black cross, white centre, gold paint	Umber
21	Duke of Brunswick's (from 1802) (see Note 2)	5	White with yellow wedges, light blue centre, silver paint, gold crowns and FWR monograms	Light blue with yellow wedges, white centre, silver paint, gold crowns and FWR monograms	Probably black
22	Schlieben, 1791 Pirch Klinckowstroem, 1795	2	White with red cross, blue centre, gold paint	Blue with red cross, white centre, gold paint	Black
23	Lichnowsky, 1796 Winning	1	White with blue corner medallions, white centre, silver paint	White with blue corner medallions, blue centre, silver paint	Unknown
24	Beville, 1791 Frankenberg, 1795 Grünberg, 1799 Zenge	2	White with green cross, green centre, gold paint	Green with white cross, white centre, gold paint	Black
25	Möllendorff	3	White with yellow wedges, green centre, gold paint	Green with yellow wedges, white centre, gold paint	Brown Ochre
26	Alt-Woldeck, 1789 Jung-Schwerin, 1795 Larisch, 1800 Alt-Larisch	2	White with yellow cross, yellow centre, silver paint	Yellow with white cross, white centre,silver paint	Black
27	Knobelsdorff, 1800 Tschammer	2	White field, vertical arms of cross yellow, horizontal purple, blue centre, gold paint	Blue field, vertical arms of cross yellow, horizontal purple, white centre, gold paint	Unknown

No.	Name	Type	Leibfahne	Regimentsfahnen	Colour of Pole
28	Kalckstein, 1789 Gentzkow, 1792 Ruits, 1795 Klinckowstroem, 1799 Malschitzki	3	White with blue wedges, black centre, gold paint and eagle	Black with blue wedges, white centre, gold paint	Black
29	Wendessen, 1798 Treuenfels	3	White with yellow wedges, white centre, gold paint	Blue with yellow wedges, white centre, gold paint	Black
30	Schönfeldt, 1792 Wegnern, 1793 Rüchel, 1798 Borcke	3	White with black wedges, white centre, gold paint	Green with black wedges, white centre, gold paint	Probably black
31	Tauentzien, 1791 Borcke, 1792 Lattorf, 1800 Oldenburg, 1805 Kropff	3	White with blue wedges, blue centre, gold paint	Blue with white wedges, white centre, gold paint	Black
32	Price Hohenlohe's	4	White field with black cross and red wedges, blue centre, gold paint	Blue field with black cross and red wedges, white centre, gold paint	Black
33	Götzen, 1794 Pfau, 1794 Favrat, 1804 Schierstedt, 1804 Alvensleben	1	White field, blue centre, silver paint	Blue field, white centre, silver paint	White
34	Prince Ferdinand of Prussia's	8	White with light blue cross, light blue centre, silver paint	Light blue with white cross, white centre, silver paint	Yellow
35	Prince Henry of Prussia	1	White field, light blue centre, silver paint	Light blue field, white centre, silver paint	White
36	Raumer, 1793 Puttkamer	1	White field, grey-lilac centre, gold paint	Grey-lilac field, white centre, gold paint	White
37	Wolfframsdorff, 1794 Hiller von Gärtringen, 1799 Stockhausen, 1804 Tschepe	1	White field, yellow-green centre, gold paint	Yellow-green field white centre gold paint	White
38	Hager, 1790 Vittinghoff, 1796 Marwitz, 1800 Pelchrzim	1	White field, red centre, gold paint	Red field, white centre, gold paint	White
39	Könitz, 1793 Crousaz, 1800 Zastrow	3	White with yellow wedges, yellow centre, silver paint	Yellow with white wedges, white centre, silver paint	Yellow
40	Erlach, 1791 Jung-Pfuhl, 1794 Steinwehr, 1805 Schimonsky	9	White field, gold centre framed in rose red, gold paint	Rose red field, gold centre framed in white, gold paint	White
41	Jung-Woldeck, 1789 Woldeck, 1792 Schladen, 1804 Lettow	1	White field, pale yellow centre, silver paint	Pale yellow field, white centre, silver paint	White
42	Margrave Henry, 1789 Hanenfeld, 1794 Lüttwitz, 1796 Ploetz	3	White with orange wedges, orange centre, gold paint	Orange with white wedges, orange centre, gold paint	White
43	Anhalt, 1795 Wartensleben, 1803 Strachwitz (See Note 3)	1	White field, light green centre, gold paint	Light green field and centre, gold paint	White
44	Gaudi, 1789 Pirch, 1791 Dohna, 1793 Kunitzky, 1799 Strachwitz, 1803 Hagken	3	White with red wedges, light blue centre, gold paint	Light blue with red wedges, white centre, gold paint	Umber
45	Eckhardtberg, 1792 Grävenitz, 1795 Unruh, 1805 Zweiffel	3	White with orange wedges, white centre, gold paint	Blue with orange wedges, white centre, gold paint	Umber
46	Pfuhl, 1791 Alt-Pfuhl, 1794 Thiele	5	White with black wedges, yellow centre, gold paint	Yellow with black wedges, white centre, gold paint	White
47	Wangenheim, 1790 Hertzberg, 1797 Gravert	5	White with light blue wedges, yellow centre, gold paint	Yellow with black wedges, white centre, gold paint	White
48	Eichmann, 1791 Schlieffen, 1792 Köthen, 1797 Landgrave of Hessen-Kassel's, 1803 Prince-Elector of Hessen-Kassel's	3	White with light blue wedges, purple centre, silver paint	Purple with light blue wedges, white centre, silver paint	White
49	Borch, 1794 Schönfeldt, 1800 Müffling	1	White field, grey-brown centre, silver paint	Grey-brown field, white centre, silver paint	White
50	Troschke, 1794 Steensen, 1799 Sanitz	3	White with purple wedges, white centre, gold paint	Blue with purple wedges, white centre, gold paint	Sienna
51	Krockow, 1789 Hanstein, 1803 Kauffberg	3	White with light blue wedges, white centre, silver paint	Yellow with light blue wedges, white centre, silver paint	Sienna
52	Schwerin, 1789 Alt-Schwerin, 1795 Reinhardt	2	White with poppy red cross, dark green centre, silver paint	Dark green with poppy red cross, white centre, silver paint	White
53	Favrat, 1794 Anhalt, 1800 Jung-Larisch	3	White with red wedges, light green centre, silver paint	Light green with red wedges, white centre, silver paint	White
54	Bonin, 1794 Mosch, 1799 Natzmer	2	White with red cross, black centre, gold paint and eagle	Black with red cross, white centre, gold paint	White
55	Roschembahr, 1790 Tiedemann, 1792 Brühl, 1792 Holwede, 1796 Manstein	2	White with yellow cross, light blue centre, silver paint	Light blue with yellow cross, white centre, silver paint	White

continued

Chart 1 continued: Prussian Infantry Colours 1797–1806

No.	Name	Type	Leibfahne	Regimentsfahnen	Colour of Pole
56	Founded 1794, Reitzenstein, 1796 Laurens, 1804 Tauentzien	5 (from 1796)	White with purple wedges, green centre, silver paint, FWR monograms	Green with purple wedges, white centre, silver paint, FWR monograms	White
57	Founded 1794, Weyher, 1795 Grävenitz (see Note 4)	1	White, gold paint, FWR monograms	Rose red, gold paint, FWR monograms	White
58	Founded 1797, Courbière	3	White with yellow wedges, yellow centre, silver paint, FWR monograms	Light blue with yellow wedges, yellow centre, silver paint, FWR monograms	White
59	Founded 1803, Wartensleben	3	White with light blue wedges, light blue centre, gold paint, FWR monograms	Light blue with white wedges, white centre, gold paint, FWR monograms	Probably black
60	Founded 1803, Formation not complete by 1806, Chlebowsky	–	No colours issued.		

Notes:

(IR No.6) Pre-1740 issue with palm fronds instead of laurel wreath. The design in the centre was altered to the 1740 pattern, i.e. the PRO GLORIA ET PATRIA scroll replaced NON SOLI CEDIT, FWR monograms, rather than FR, blue corner medallions on the Regimentsfahne.

(IR No.21) A Type 3 but in place of the horizontal grenade either side of the central design was the salutation C.W.F. and Hz B. in silver respectively. These are the initials of the Duke of Brunswick (Carl Wilhelm Ferdinand – Herzog zu Braunschweig) and commemorate his 30-year colonelcy of the regiment.

(IR No.43) The centre medallion of the Regimentsfahne may have been the same colour as the base colour whilst the Leibfahne was a complete reversal, white base colour with white centre.

(IR No.57) A unique set of colours with no central medallion or wreath, just an enlarged eagle.

Chart 1 – Infantry:

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 6

Type 7

Type 8

Type 9

OPPOSITE **Charts 2 & 3 – Cavalry**

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 6

Chart 2: Cuirassier Standards, 1787–1807

No.	Name	Type	Leibstandarte	Regimentsstandarten
1	Gröben, 1788 Dolffs, 1805 Henckel	1	White field, yellow centre, gold embroidery	Yellow field, white centre, gold embroidery
2	Backhoff, 1789 Marwitz, 1797 Malschitzky, 1802 Schleinitz, 1805 Beeren	2	White with yellow wedges, purple centre, silver embroidery	Purple with yellow wedges, silver centre and embroidery
3	Life Regiment (*Leibregiment*)	1	White field and centre, gold embroidery	*Leibstandarten* only
4	Mengden, 1796 Truchsess, 1800 Wagenfeld	1	White field, purple centre, gold embroidery	Purple field, white centre, gold embroidery
5	Prince Louis Alexander of Württemberg's, 1800 Balliodz	2	White with light blue wedges, light blue centre, gold embroidery	Light blue with white wedges, silver centre, gold embroidery
6	Duke of Saxe-Weimar's, 1794 Byern, 1800 Quitzow	1	White field, blue centre, gold embroidery	Blue field, white centre, gold embroidery
7	Ilow, 1792 Borstell, 1804 Reitzenstein	1	White field, red centre, gold embroidery	Red field, white centre, gold embroidery
8	Görtz, 1797 Heising	1	White field, black centre, gold embroidery	Black field, white centre, gold embroidery
9	Manstein, 1797 Holtzendorff	1	White field, light green centre, gold embroidery	Light green field, white centre, gold embroidery
10	Gensdarmes Regiment (*Regiment Gensdarmes*)	1	White field, gold centre and embroidery, corner monograms in silver medallions	Gold field, silver centre, gold embroidery, corner monograms in silver medallions
11	Life Carabineers Regiment (*Regiment Leibkarabiniers*)	1	White field, blue centre, gold embroidery	Blue field, white centre, gold embroidery
12	Dallwig, 1796 Berg, 1798 Werther, 1803 Bünting	1	White field, orange centre, gold embroidery	Orange field, white centre, gold embroidery
13	Garde du Corps	3	(From 1798) Silver field and centre, silver and gold embroidery	Silver field, orange silver centre, gold and silver embroidery

Chart 3: Prussian Dragoon Colours, 1787–1807

No.	Name	Type	Leibfahne	Regimentsfahnen
1	Lottum, 1794 Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia's, 1797 Duke of Pfalz-Zweibrücken, 1799 Prince-Elector of Bavaria's, 1806 King of Bavaria's	4	White field, yellow centre, gold embroidery	Yellow field, white centre, gold embroidery
2	Mahlen, 1790 Schmettau, 1797 Prittwitz	6	White with red wedges, yellow centre, gold embroidery	Yellow with red wedges, silver centre, gold embroidery
3	Gilsa, 1792 Prittwitz, 1797 Stranz, 1800 Irwing	4	White field, pink centre, silver embroidery	Pink field, white centre, silver embroidery
4	Götzen, 1789 Normann, 1792 Katte	4	Only *Regimentsfahnen* carried	White field, blue centre, gold embroidery
5	Margrave Christian Frederick Charles Alexander, 1806 Queen's	4	White field, black centre, gold embroidery	Black field, silver centre, gold embroidery
6	Rohr, 1790 Werther, 1803 Auer	5	White with red wedges, dark blue centre, gold embroidery,	Dark blue with red wedges, silver centre gold embroidery
7	Borcke, 1790 Zabeltitz, 1792 Schenck, 1803 Pastau, 1805 Rhein, 1806 Baczko	6	White with red wedges, black centre, old embroidery	Black with red wedges, silver centre, gold embroidery
8	Brausen, 1790 Bardeleben, 1801 Busch, 1803 Esebeck	6	White with red wedges, black centre, gold eagle and embroidery	Black with red wedges, silver centre, gold embroidery
9	Borstell, 1792 Brückner, 1798 Hertzberg	6	White with red wedges, yellow centre, silver embroidery	Yellow with red wedges, silver centre and embroidery
10	Rosenbruch, 1790 Franckenberg, 1795 Busch, 1801 Manstein, 1806 Heycking	5	White with red wedges, orange-yellow centre, silver embroidery	Orange-yellow with red wedges, silver centre and embroidery
11	Bosse, 1789 Tschirschky, 1793 Voss, 1806 Krafft	5	White with silver wedges, yellow centre, silver embroidery	Yellow with silver wedges, silver centre and embroidery
12	Kalckreuth, 1793 Bieberstein, 1797 Brüsewitz, 1806 Osten	4	White field, red centre, silver embroidery	Red field, silver centre and embroidery
13	Founded 1802 as 13th Dragoon Regiment, 1803 Rouquette	4	White field, purple centre, gold embroidery	Purple field, silver centre, gold embroidery
14	Founded 1803, Wobeser	4	White field, light blue centre, gold embroidery	Light blue field, silver centre, gold embroidery

THE PLATES

A1: Flügel-Adjutant of cavalry, 1790s

This aide wears the campaign dress of the wars of the French Revolution. This pattern of hat was introduced in 1787 and worn until 1798; its silver clasp and black and silver cockade are obscured here on the left front. The rather plain frock coat, also worn until 1798, it is faced with black on the lapels and cuffs and has silver lace buttonhole loops. The round cuffs, hidden here by the white kid gauntlets, have a white three-button flap and two silver buttonhole loops on the forearms above the black facing. The waistcoat and breeches are a buff or 'straw-yellow' shade, the high riding boots black, and he carries the standard pattern officers' épée, with brass hilt, black grip, and brown leather scabbard slung from a concealed belt; the sword knot is silver and black.

A2: Lieutenant-General of cavalry, 1790s

This general is also in campaign dress, his Prussian blue frock coat faced with red on the collar and Brandenburg cuffs. In 1790–98 the quantity of coat embroidery distinguished the different ranks of general. A full general had elaborate, serpentine, gold foliate embroidery on his collar, cuff patches, lapels, pockets and coat tail turn-backs; a lieutenant-general did not have embroidery on his turn-backs, while a major-general did not have it on the lapels either. The edging of collar and cuffs appears to be plain gold lace. The hat is trimmed with white feathers and a white-over-black plume is secured by an elaborate gold clasp or agraffe. The star of the Order of the Black Eagle protrudes from beneath the coat lapel.

A3: Feldjäger courier, 1790s

This uniform was introduced in 1787 and worn until 1798. The black tricorn hat has a black cockade, a brass clasp, and – hidden here – black and white pull cords. The cutaway frock coat is huntsman's green, with a deep stand-and-fall collar faced poppy-red, like the turn-backs and (hidden here) the Swedish cuffs; it has no lapels, and the two rows of brass buttons set in three pairs are purely ornamental. Note the yellow cord aiguillette on his right shoulder; and the fact that the trooper's queued hair is not powdered, unlike that of the officers.

B1: Stabskapitän, Belgium, June 1815

Staff Captain Stoch was an officer of the General Staff in attendance upon Gen.Gneisenau at Ligny on 16 June. On campaign, the black felt bicorn hat was normally covered with an oilskin to protect it from the elements; here Stoch has crammed it back onto his head over a bloodstained bandage. The blue coatee, with two close-set rows of silver buttons, has the crimson facings of the General Staff at the collar and Swedish cuffs, which are both embellished with double bars of silver lace indicating his status. The broad shoulder straps have a blue ground edged with silver braid and piped crimson. The broad silver and black mixed waist sash was the mark of all officers. Stoch is wearing an Iron Cross, introduced in 1813, hanging from its black and white ribbon. The grey, buttoned riding overalls – here with a single poppy-red stripe – were commonly worn during the later Napoleonic Wars. However, the number of buttons was considered a nuisance and new, more comfortable and practical patterns were introduced in due course. Prussian staff officers used black bearskin shabraques decorated with the Guard Star on the rear corners and holster covers. A grey greatcoat roll is strapped behind the saddle.

B2: Lieutenant-General von Gneisenau, Belgium, June 1815

On the evening of 16 June, Gneisenau is giving the order for the Prussian army to retreat on Tilly after the battle of Ligny; this order, by which the Prussian army was able to maintain contact with Wellington's forces, turned the tactical defeat into a strategic victory. By now, generals of all ranks wore the same uniform distinctions: a blue coatee with gold buttons, the poppy-red collar and cuffs edged with narrow double gold braid and with inner borders of foliate lace. A gold twist cord and aiguillette is worn on the right shoulder, a silver twist cord on the left. Gneisenau is shown wearing the Pour le Mérite at his throat; hidden by his arm is the Iron Cross pinned directly to his left breast.

B3: Cavalry ADC, Belgium, June 1815

Also in attendance upon Gneisenau was Rittmeister Jasmund, a cavalry aide-de-camp. The white uniform typical of cavalry ADCs was based upon the uniform of the cuirassiers; the green collar, Swedish cuffs and turn-back piping also indicate his arm of service. Apart from their white ground his shoulder straps are of the same design as those of B1. Note the long tasselled ends of the officers' sash.

Cavalry and infantry *Flugel-Adjutanten*, service dress, 1800, from a series of contemporary watercolours by Ramm. The cavalry officer has a white coat faced with red, the infantryman dark 'Prussian' blue; both wear buff/yellow waistcoats and white breeches. Again, they are distinguished from General-Adjutanten by the silver rather than gold lace embroidery on the frock coats; for this order of dress the buttonhole lace is plain, but note the cavalry ADC's aiguillette. Cf Plate A.

Compare Ramm's study of the same two ADCs in gala uniform, 1800. The buttonhole lace is much more lavish and ornamental; and the infantry officer also wears an aiguillette on his right shoulder.

C1: Infantry ADC, parade dress, 1813

This captain's uniform is typical of the latter part of the Napoleonic Wars. The black felt and leather shako has a falling white and black feather plume, a silver lace top band with a silver and black pompon, a large silver and black cockade secured by a silver button and loop at front centre, and silver chin chains worn here hooked up to silver fittings including cut-out eagles at each side. This pattern of coatee was introduced in 1808 – although there were plans to introduce a similar style in 1806, which came to naught due to the catastrophic defeat of that year. Of blue with poppy-red facings at the stand collar, Swedish cuffs and tail turn-backs, it has silver buttons and lace. Collar and cuffs bear two silver *Litzen* bars; a silver twist cord and aiguillette is worn on the right shoulder. By this time shoulder straps were used to distinguish officers' ranks; this captain wears – though hidden here – a broad left shoulder strap of poppy-red edged with silver braid and piped red.

C2: Cavalry ADC, campaign dress, 1813

Also a captain, this officer wears the less elaborate field dress with a covered bicorn. The single-breasted undress coatee has gold buttons; it is faced with mid-green at the stand-and-fall collar, Swedish cuffs and turn-backs, all being piped poppy-red around the edges – as is the front edge. The royal ADCs wore gold buttons and lace, normal ADCs silver. On parade, this ADC would wear a silver aiguillette on the right shoulder like C1, replacing one of his blue, silver-laced, red-piped shoulder straps.

C3: Sergeant of Feldjägers, campaign dress, 1812–15

The Staff couriers or guides adopted the new style of uniforms along with the rest of the army in 1808, but still kept their traditional huntsman's green. Rank is indicated by two lengthways silver and black lace stripes down the outer edges of the green shoulder straps, which are piped red. The special status of these NCOs was indicated by the use of the officers' silver and black waist sash, sword knot and épée. All three figures on this plate wear the usual grey riding overalls with a red piping and metal buttons down the opening outer seam. The courier's shabraque is green edged with yellow; his holster flounces are of black bearskin.

D/E: 6-pounder gun crew, 1790s

To make use of the centrespread, we revert here to the period of the Revolutionary Wars, when greater wealth than was available after 1806 allowed the use of more elaborate uniforms. The crew depicted has only a sergeant and five men, instead of the regulation six or eight gunners, but this is quite enough to serve the piece – the full crew allowed for casualties and replacements. The gun is a brass 6-pdr; originally the wooden parts were painted a dull matt mid-blue, but this has faded in prolonged field use – wet gunpowder slurry had the same effect as dirty grey paint.

D/E1: Officer

At the close of the 18th century the specific rank of an officer was not yet indicated by any uniform feature. Officer status is marked by the gold lace edging and gilt clasp to his tricorn, the tasselled gold lace buttonhole loops on his coat, and particularly the silver and black silk waist sash. The artillery uniform at this date was Prussian blue with the same colour facings (without coloured turn-backs for officers); for all ranks the red neck stock with a narrow white upper edge was particular to this arm of service.

D/E2: Gunner

He is performing one of the duties of the No.3 man in the crew, levering the trail of the gun round to adjust the traverse. The field artillery wore largely the same style of uniform as the infantry regiments. This type of hat, the casquette, was introduced in 1787 and worn until 1798; the cords holding the brim up could be loosened and the flaps lowered to protect the wearer from rain. The brass three-flame grenade plate indicates the artillery; the trim is white, the pompon yellow over red over black. The coat was all-blue before the introduction of black facings in 1798, with brass buttons, Brandenburg cuffs, and poppy-red turnbacks; the small-clothes were white, the gaiters of black waxed linen with brass buttons. Note that this figure is wearing an additional white cross belt over his left shoulder with a brass ring and a piece of coiled rope (the 'prolonge') – this was a drag rope, attached to the piece when it was being manhandled.

D/E3: Sergeant

The Unteroffizier, evidently somewhat older than his crew, is permitted to wear a natural-coloured moustache. His uniform distinctions include the gold trim and quartered black and white pompon on his casquette, the gold lace loops on the coat, the cane, and the officers' épée.

D/E4: Gunner

This is the No.4 man in the crew, responsible for priming and elevation. Note the priming powder flask worn over his left shoulder from the broad white tool belt, which also carries brass vent prickers secured by chains to a lion-mask stud; the flask's face is painted white and blue, surrounding the royal monogram. He is fulfilling the role of ventsman, and wears stout gauntlets to protect his hands from the heat of the barrel while he blocks the touchhole with his thumb. His right hand is on the screw which adjusts the elevation.

D/E5: Gunner

This No.5 man in the crew is carrying ammunition in the cowhide satchel worn over his left shoulder. This ammunition would initially be obtained from the trail box deposited on the ground to the left of the piece, and later from the limber. When the piece was being reloaded by a full crew the No.5 would walk to the muzzle and hand the round to the No.2 man for insertion into the barrel.

D/E6: Gunner

This soldier stands in the position taken up by the No.3 man when he has finished laying the piece with the trail-spike, and the loading procedure is complete. At the command, the No.3 will then ignite the primer in the touchhole. He carries a linstock in each hand so that he has a reserve in case one match goes out – the force of the charge blowing up through the touchhole often extinguished the match. Note here the special short artillery sword carried by all the gunners, with brass hilt and fittings, brown leather scabbard, and brown leather fist strap with red and white tassel.

D/E7: Gunner

This is the only figure on which we can see the single left shoulder strap of the coat, set low behind the crest of the shoulder. This No.1 man in the crew carried a combined rammer and sponge. At one end it was covered with a piece of sheepskin which was periodically soaked in a bucket of water, and used to swab out the barrel to extinguish any sparks before a new charge was inserted. At the other end was a plug of wood a little smaller than the bore, which was used to push home the new charge to the end of the barrel. For safety reasons the rammer would always push his rod underarm and never overarm (as one often sees in films): should the charge ignite prematurely – a not very uncommon event, despite all precautions – this gave a better chance of the ramrod being blown away without taking the gunner with it. For the same reason the wise man – unlike this forgetful gunner – kept his thumbs back, gripping the rod underhand with his curled fingers only; it was better to lose a few fingers than the thumbs.

F1: Master Wagoner, Supply Train, 1805–07

Wagoners wore long single-breasted overcoats with poppy-red turn-backs. The rank of Wagonmeister is indicated by gold hat trim, a black and white pompon and pull-cord tassels, the gold lace edging the light blue collar and the self-blue cuffs of the coat, the black and white knot on the dragoon sword, and the varnished cane with iron fittings. Note the red neck stock; all the figures on this plate were considered administratively part of the artillery. Ordinary wagoners did not have any of the gold distinctions and had a plain sword knot.

F2: Miner, 1801–07

This style of coat was introduced in 1801; it has black facings at the collar, lapels and 'old Brandenburg' cuffs with blue patches; the turn-backs are poppy-red. The black hat has white trim, a brass button, and the pompon and pull-cord tassels are pale blue over red over yellow. The stock is red with the usual white top edge, the smallclothes white, and the gaiters of black waxed linen with brass buttons, as F3. The pistol worn on the cross belt over the left shoulder is the 1789 pattern carried only by the 4th Artillery Regiment, the Bosniaks, and the miners – its issue to the latter started that year. The cartridge box worn at the front of the waist belt contains pistol ammunition. The short sword is the artillery pattern, with a plain white knot.

F3: Master Gunner, 1805–07

Note that by now the 'traditional' black artillery coat facings have been introduced, to the collar, lapels and 'open old Brandenburg' cuffs. The rank distinctions of a Feuerwerker (senior to a sergeant) included the gold hat trim, black and white pompon and tassels; the tasselled gold lace loops on the flanks, sleeves and cuffs, and the silver and black officers' sword knot on the short artillery sword.

G1: Gunner, Brandenburg Artillery Brigade, 1808–15

It is interesting to note that this gunner of the post-Jena army in service dress, presenting arms to an officer on a barracks square, continues to sport the three-flame grenade artillery badge on his headgear. The shako has a white top band and black and white pompon; on campaign it would have a black oilskin protective cover. The black facings on the blue coatee were highlighted with red piping from 1808. The shoulder straps were used to distinguish the artillery brigades – here, the red of Brandenburg. The plain grey overalls are confined by gaiters reaching to the top of the calf. The brass pickers and chains were standard artillery issue, now worn on the

General officer (left) and captain of the General Staff (right), 1813. By the end of this period generals of infantry and cavalry wore largely identical uniforms. That shown here is parade uniform: a Prussian blue coatee with poppy-red facings and gold lace embroidery. Buttoned grey riding overalls were worn in winter, white in summer. The staff captain has a blue coatee with crimson collar and cuffs, silver buttons and carmine lace. By now, the General Staff was considered a separate branch of the army and was distinguished by its own facing colour. See Plate B.

black cross belt supporting the cartridge box for the musket, which has a black lacquered stock; the other belt supports a curved brass-hilted sabre in a brown leather scabbard. The grey overalls were worn in winter and on campaign, white on parade and in the summer.

G2: Officer, Guard Artillery, 1808–15

The much more elaborate parade uniform worn by an officer of the Guard Artillery is very apparent here. The lace loops on the collar and cuffs were a distinction worn only by the Royal Guard, as are the large black falling plume and the Guard Star badge adorning the shako – the latter in silver with an orange centre bearing the black eagle motif. This is largely hidden by the plume, as are a gold lace top band, a silver and black pompon and gilt chains and eagles; the tasselled cords are silver. The officers' longer-tailed coatee is Prussian blue with black artillery facings piped with poppy-red – note the Swedish cuffs, in contrast to G1. The aiguillette is gold; obscured on his left shoulder would be a silver twist cord. Note the fashionable shaping of the overalls to the leg; and the black stocks now worn by all these figures. This officer is also presenting arms.

G3: General of Artillery, 1808–14

Prince August was the only General of Artillery in the Prussian Army at this time. From 1808 he became the Inspector-General of Artillery as well as commander of the East Prussian Brigade. Brother of Prince Louis Ferdinand, who fell at the battle of Saalfeld in 1806, he commanded a brigade during the 1813 campaign. The prince is shown here wearing the undress cap and overcoat, brightened up a little by the Order of the Black Eagle worn on his chest. The peaked forage cap has a Prussian blue crown and a black band both piped poppy-red; the blue overcoat has gilt buttons, a black stand collar piped red and plain round cuffs.

H1: Engineer private, campaign dress, 1808–14

The engineers, being part of the artillery, also wore black facings piped with red. On campaign the shako was covered with oilskin and the greatcoat was worn wrapped around the body, with a leather sleeve holding the roll together on the left shoulder and the open ends strapped together. This passed over the cowhide knapsack; a spade in a buckled cover is attached to the side of this. The engineers carried a light infantry-style short sword with a saw-toothed cutting edge.

H2: Field surgeon, 1808–15

Field surgeons tended to favour the soft peaked cap, as the regulation bicorn was considered impractical; this example is all-blue with poppy-red piping, as is his coatee. Surgeons attached to the General Staff had bars of gold lace on their velvet collars and cuffs; those attached to other formations had neither the velvet nor the lace. Shoulder straps were not worn.

H3: Stretcher-bearer, 1814

Medical services to the army improved throughout this period, and greater professionalism was encouraged. Attempts were made to better the lot of the wounded, although a quick death was normally preferred to the unsterilised surgeon's saw used without anaesthetic. In January 1814 an Order-in-Cabinet called for the raising of 13 companies of stretcher-bearers; however, these were disbanded the following year after Napoleon's first abdication, and they were not raised again for the 1815 campaign. The grey cloth cap has a dark blue band, and the grey coat a dark blue collar and shoulder straps. It is interesting to note that this figure is armed with a French *sabre-briquet*, distinguished by its black scabbard; this was probably obtained from French stores in 1814. The ambulance wagon in the background is painted a dull matt mid-blue, with a black canvas tilt; the legend painted in black along the sides was 'Koen. Preu. Kranken (eagle badge) Transport Wagen'; the badge was a crowned eagle within a circular oakleaf wreath.

Gunner (left) and Engineer (right), 1812/13. The gunner is wearing the parade uniform of the period. The black shako has a white band, black & white pompon and brass three-flame plate. The Prussian blue coatee with yellow metal buttons and poppy-red turn-backs has a black collar and Brandenburg cuffs piped in red, the latter with a blue three-button patch. The yellow shoulder straps indicate the Silesian Brigade. The trousers are grey. The engineer in campaign dress has a similar uniform, but the coatee has Swedish cuffs, and the shoulder straps are black piped with red. The grey greatcoat roll has a brown leather cuff round it where it rests on the shoulder; the backpack is made of brown cowhide. A saw-toothed sidearm is carried in a brown leather scabbard on the left hip, and a spade in a buckled case on the right; see Plate H1.

INDEX

Figures in **bold** refer to illustrations.

Adjutant General's Office 5
aides-de-camp **A1**, **B3**, **C1-2**, **10**, **11**, 13, **13**, 44, **44**, 45, **45**
ammunition columns 21
artillery 18
  6-pdr field pieces **D/E**, 18, 19, 20, **24**, 33, **33**, 33-34, **34**, **35**, 45-46
  12-pdr field pieces 18, 19, 33, 34, **36**
  ammunition 19-20, 36
  drill regulations **D/E**, 24, **24**, 33, **33**, 33-37, **34**, 45-46
  establishment 19
  firing procedures **D/E**, 33-35, **34**, 45-46
  guard **G2**, 20, 21, 47
  horse 20-21, 23, 24, 33, 35, 37
  howitzers 18, 19, 23, 34, **36**, 37
  limbering and unlimbering **33**, 35
  mortars 34-35, **37**
  movement 35-37
  organisation 18, 23, 33
  siege and fortress 34-35, **36**, **37**
  signals 37
  tactics 14, 15, 15-16, 23-24
  training 24, 35
  uniforms **D/E**, **F3**, **G**, **19**, 20-21, **21**, **22**, **23**, 45-46, 46-47, **47**
artisan companies 19, 21
Auerstedt, battle of, 1806 9
August of Prussia, Major-General Prince **G3**, 24, 47

Basle, Peace of, 1796 6
Bautzen, battle of, 1813 4
Blücher von Wahlstadt, Gebhardt Lebrecht Prince (1742–1819) 4, **4**, 9
Boyen, Ludwig Leopold Gottlieb Hermann von (1771–1848) 5
Brunswick, Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand, Duke of (1735–1806) 6, 7, **9**, 23

cavalry 13, 14, **39**
  aides-de-camp **A1**, **B3**, **C2**, **10**, 13, **13**, 44, **44**, 45, **45**
  colours and standards 37, 38, 39, **39**, **42**, 43(table)
  generals **A2**, 12, 44
  tactics 14, 15, 16
Clausewitz, Karl Philipp Gottfried von (1780–1831) 3, 5
colours and standards **42**
  1787–1797 37
  1797–1807 38, **38**, 40-43(table)
  1808–1815 38-39, **39**
command control 3-4, 9, 11

Engineer Corps **H1**, 18, 19, 22, 47, **47**
Engineer-Geographers (Inginieur Geographen) 6, 8
Exerzir-Reglement für die Artillerie der Königlich Preussischen Armee, 1812 14, 17

Feldjägerkorps zu Pferde **A3**, **C3**, 6, 8, 14, **14**, 44, 45
formations
  artillery 24, 36
  brigade 14-17, **15**, **16**, **17**
Frederick the Great (1712–86) 5, 5-6, 12
Frederick William, Crown Prince of Prussia 4, 9
Frederick William I (1688–1740) 5
Frederick William II (1744–1797) 5, **6**, 12, 18-19, 23
Frederick William III (1770–1840) 5, 7, 8, **8**, 12, 15-16
Frederick William of Brandenburg (1620–88) 5
French forces 3

Garde du Corps, colours and standards 38, 39
General Staff 3-5, 7, 9, 10-11
  departments 8
  evolution of 5-8
  organisation 11
  territorial Brigades 6-7
  uniforms **A1-2**, **B**, **C1-2**, **5**, **10**, **11**, **12**, 12-14, **13**, 44, **44**, 45, **45**, **46**
generals, uniforms **A2**, **G3**, **4**, **5**, 12-13, 44, **46**, 47
Geusau, Levin von 7
Gneisenau, August Wilhelm Anton von (1750–1831) **B2**, 4, **4**, 9, 44
Grolman, Karl Wilhelm Georg von (1777–1843) 5, **5**

headquarters guards 14

Immediat-Militär
  Organisations-kommission (Military Organisation Commission) 6
infantry **4**, 12, 13, 14, 18
  aides-de-camp **C1**, **11**, **44**, 45, **45**
  colours and standards 37, 38, **38**, 38 39, **39**, 40-42(table), **42**
intelligence gathering 6

Jena, battle of, 1806 **38**, 38

King's General Adjutants and Adjutants 5, 13, **13**
Königgrätz (Sadowa), battle of, 1866 4

leadership, role of 3
Lessons of War, Moltke 3
Ligny, battle of, 1815 4

Massenbach, Eberhard Friedrich Fabian Freiherr von (1753–1819) 4, 7, 8, 9
medical services **H2-3**, 22-23, 47
Military Organisation Commission 6
Military Reorganisation Commission 9-10
Militia battalions 16-17
miners **F2**, 22, 46
Möllendorff, Wichard Joachim Heinrich von (1724–1816) 6, 7, **8**
Moltke, Helmuth Carl Bernard (1800–91) 3

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769–1821) 3-4
Ney, Michel (1769–1815) 4

Oberkriegskollegium, the 5, 6, 10
officers **4**, **6**, **8**, 9, **14**, **19**
  artillery **D/E1**, **19**, 20-21, **21**, 45
  staff **B1**, 5, 9, 11, 12, **12**, 13, 44, **46**
  Engineer Corps 22
organisation 3, 11-12
  artillery 18, 23, 33
  brigade 16-17
  corps 16
  divisional 8-10
  the General Staff 11

Paris, Convention of, 1808 10, 19
Pontonier Corps, the 18, 22
Prussian forces, establishment 10

Quartermaster General's Staff (QGS) 4, 5 8, 10

Reserve battalions 16-17
Rüchel, Ernest Philip von (1754–1823) 7, 8

Saalfeld, battle of, 1806 23
Scharnhorst, Gerhard Johann David von (1755–1813) 3, **3**, 4-5, 7, 8, 11, 23
  reforms 9, 9-10
Stein, Heinrich Friedrich Carl (1757–1831) 9
Storch, Staff Captain **B1**, 44
strategy 8
stretcher-bearer companies **H3**, 22-23, 47
supply train **F1**, 46

tactics 9, 14-17, **17**, 23-24
Tempelhoff, Major-General Georg Friedrich Ludwig von (1737–1807) 23
Third Coalition, the 8
train companies 22
training 9, 11
  artillery 24, 35

uniforms
  ammunition columns 21
  artillery **D/E**, **F3**, **G**, **19**, 20-21, **21**, **22**, **23**, 45-46, 46-47, **47**
  artisan companies 21
  cavalry **39**
  Engineer Corps **H1**, 22, 47, **47**
  Feldjägerkorps **A3**, **C3**, **14**, 44, 45
  the General Staff **A1-2**, **B**, **C1-2**, **5**, **10**, **11**, **12**, 12-14, **13**, 44, **44**, 45, **45**, **46**
  medical services **H2-3**, 47
  miners **F2**, 46
  officers **4**, **6**, **8**, **14**, **19**
  Pontonier Corps 22
  stretcher-bearer companies **H3**, 22 23, 47
  train companies **F1**, 22, 46

War Department, the 10, 13

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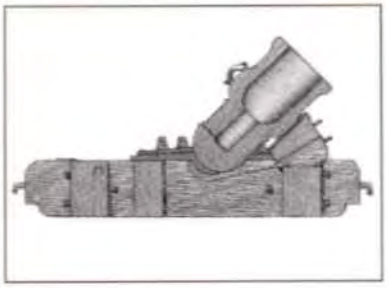

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